美味しんぼ

⑮

雁屋 哲・花咲アキラ

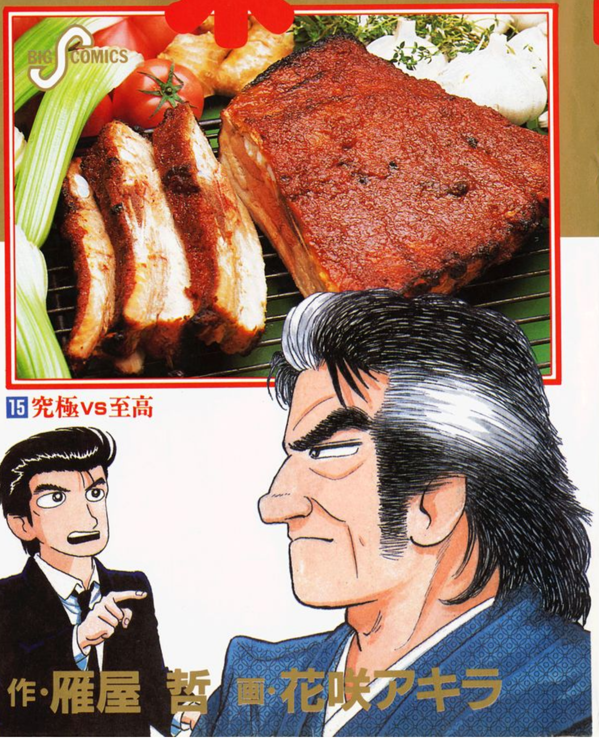
ビッグコミックス好評発売中！

F〈エフ〉（六田登）	1～9集
味いちもんめ（あべ善太 倉田よしみ）	1～4集
二匹のブル（瀬叩龍・岩重孝）	1～8集
明日カップ・イン（小池一夫・木村えいじ）	1～5集
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）	全1巻
キスより簡単（石坂啓）	全6巻
ミセスKに伝言（神戸さくみ）	全1巻
オレの奥さん！（はやせ淳）	全1巻
HARD METAL（松本零士）	1～2集
Cryingフリーマン（小池一夫・池上遼一）	全9巻
マネー・ハンター（玄太郎）	1～3集
陶子（篠原とおる）	1～4集
パンツが大好き（よしまさこ）	全1巻
総務部総務課山口六平太（林律雄 高井研一郎）	1～4集
はっぱ64（山本直樹）	全3巻
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）	1～6集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）	1～5集
ぼくの西鉄ライオンズ（長谷川法世）	1集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）	1～5集
土佐の一本釣り PART2 純平（青柳裕介）	1～3集
ボギー（やまさき十三 芳谷圭児）	1～3集
踊る警官（浦沢直樹）	全1巻
冒険してもいい頃（みやすのんき）	1～5集
マドンナ（くじらいいくこ）	1～5集
BROTHERS（小池一夫・叶精作）	1～4集
信長（工藤かずや・池上遼一）	1～2集
ALICE12（新谷かおる）	全1巻
くどき屋ジョー（ジョージ秋山）	1～2集
極めてかもしだ（山本直樹）	1～3集
博多新聞東京支社（長谷川法世）	1～2集
スローニン（吉田聡）	1～3集
寄席芸人伝（古谷三敏）	全11巻
ＡＤ物語（国友やすゆき）	1集
あんたの代理人（高井研一郎）	1集
アレルギー戦士（石坂啓）	全1巻
トップはオレだ!!（とりいかずよし）	1集
萬川集海（小池一夫・神崎将臣）	1集
浦沢直樹短編集 ＮＡＳＡ（浦沢直樹）	全1巻
夢みるトマト（石坂啓）	1～2集
ザ・ジュニア（神田圭介・叶精作）	1集

装丁／海野一雄　カバー・フォト／菊地和男

美味しんぼ

BIG COMICS



⑮ 究極VS至高

作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ

15 究極VS至高　作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BC1405

BIG COMICS

美味（おい）しんぼ

15

究極vs至高

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BC1405

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ISBN4-09-181405-0 C0379 ¥480E

小学館 定価480円

雁屋 哲 花咲アキラ 著作集

■ ビッグコミックス

美味（おい）しんぼ……………………… 1 ～15集発売中

ビッグコミックス好評発売中！

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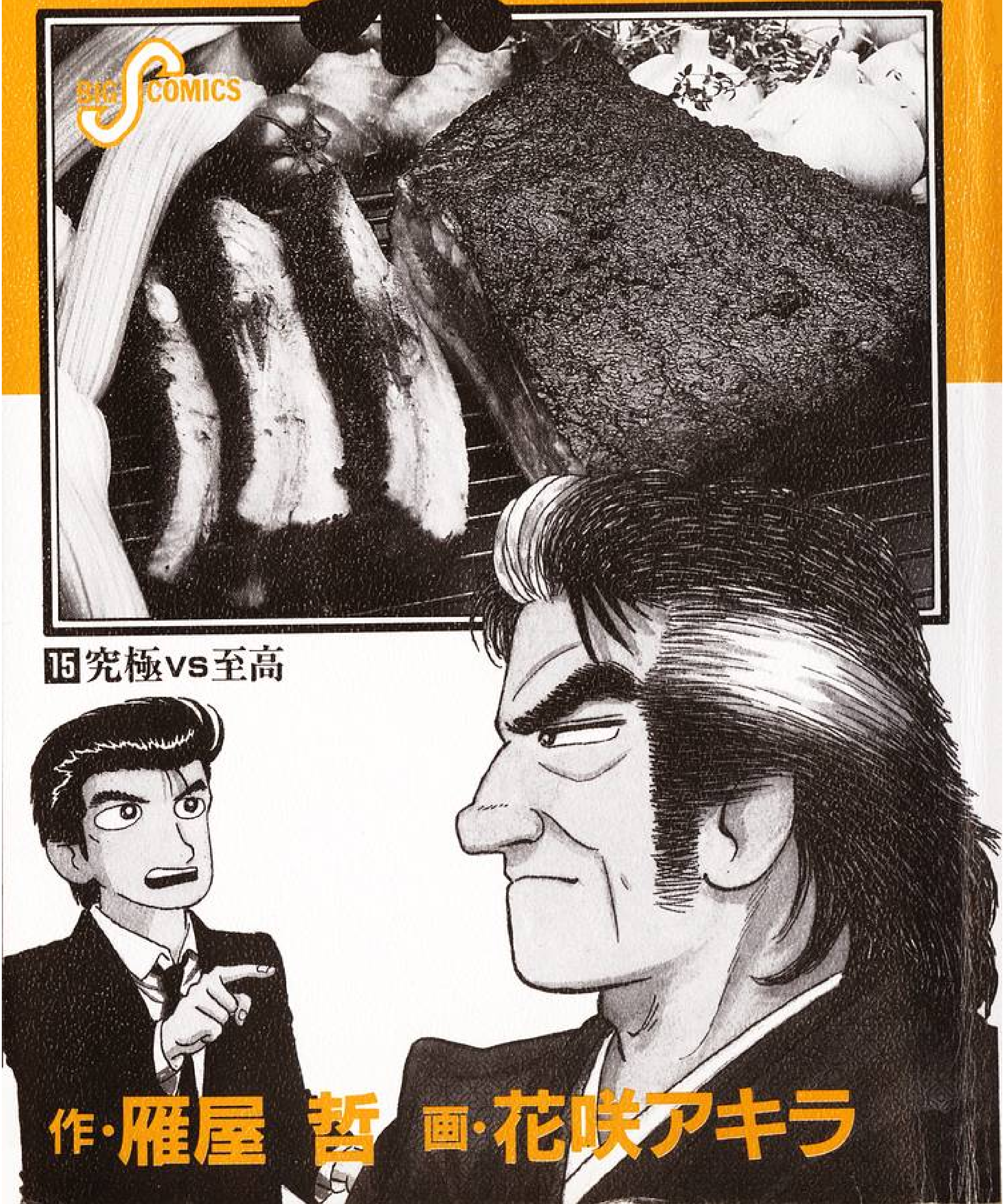
愛しのチイパッパ（やまさき十三 北見けんいち）…… 1 ～17集
めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……………全15巻
ぼっけもん（岩重孝）…………………全14巻
軽井沢シンドローム（たがみよしひさ）……全 9 巻
羽なしティンカー・ベル（柳沢きみお）…全 3 巻
モノクローム・レター（村生ミオ）……全 2 巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
瑠璃色ゼネレーション（柳沢きみお）…全 7 巻
わたしは真悟（楳図かずお）…………全10巻
微熱MY LOVE（村生ミオ）……………… 1 ～13集
なぜか笑介（聖日出夫）…………… 1 ～15集
ホットＤＯＣ（きむらはじめ 加藤唯史）……………… 1 ～11集
パンドラ（里中満智子）………………全 3 巻
かっとび米熊氏（北見けんいち）……全 1 巻
美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）… 1 ～15集
パラダイス通信（神戸さくみ）………全 3 巻
風のノブ（前川Ｋ三）……………… 1 ～ 7 集
利平さんとこのおばあちゃん（法月理栄）…… 1 ～ 2 集
僚平新事情（六田登）…………………全 2 巻
1½いっかにぶんのいち（むつ利之）…全 2 巻
ホテル（石ノ森章太郎）…………… 1 ～ 8 集
男の自画像（柳沢きみお）………… 1 ～ 4 集
パイナップルARMY（工藤かずや 浦沢直樹）…… 1 ～ 7 集
ブルー・ジーン（くじらいいくこ）……全 3 巻

美味しんぼ

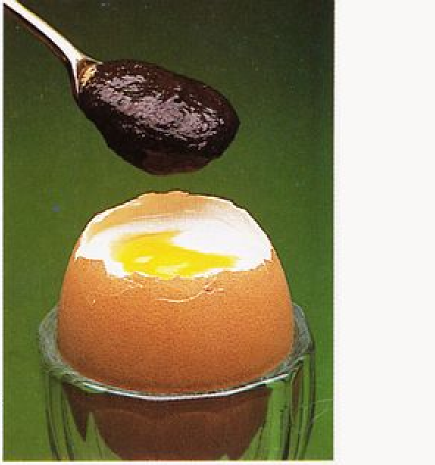
BIG COMICS



⑮究極vs至高

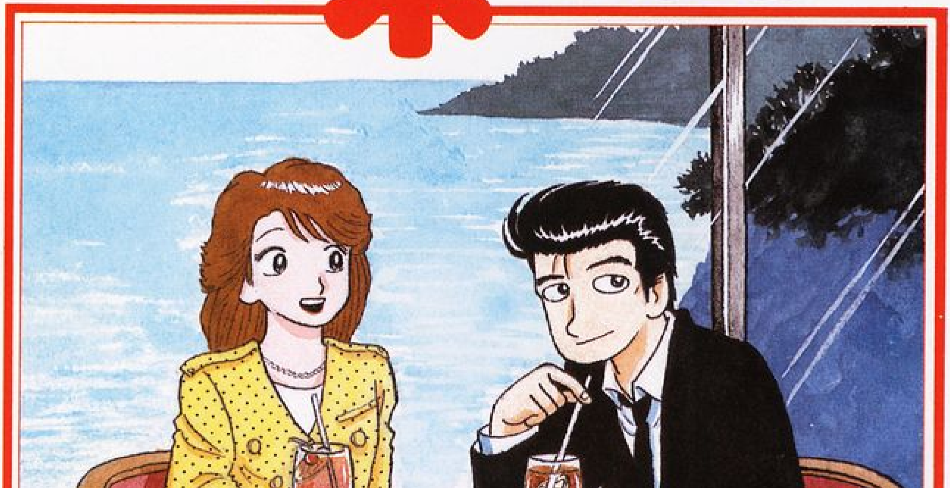
作・雁屋　哲　画・花咲アキラ

15 究極VS至高



半熟卵にフレッシュトリュフ（うらごしした もの）とフォン・ド・ヴォーで作った別添のソースを加えながら食べる逸品。
調理・ドデュ・ダーンド(銀座)

美味しんぼ



美味（おい）しんぼ

15 究極VS至高

第１話　究極VS至高（前編）……3
第２話　究極VS至高（中編）…27
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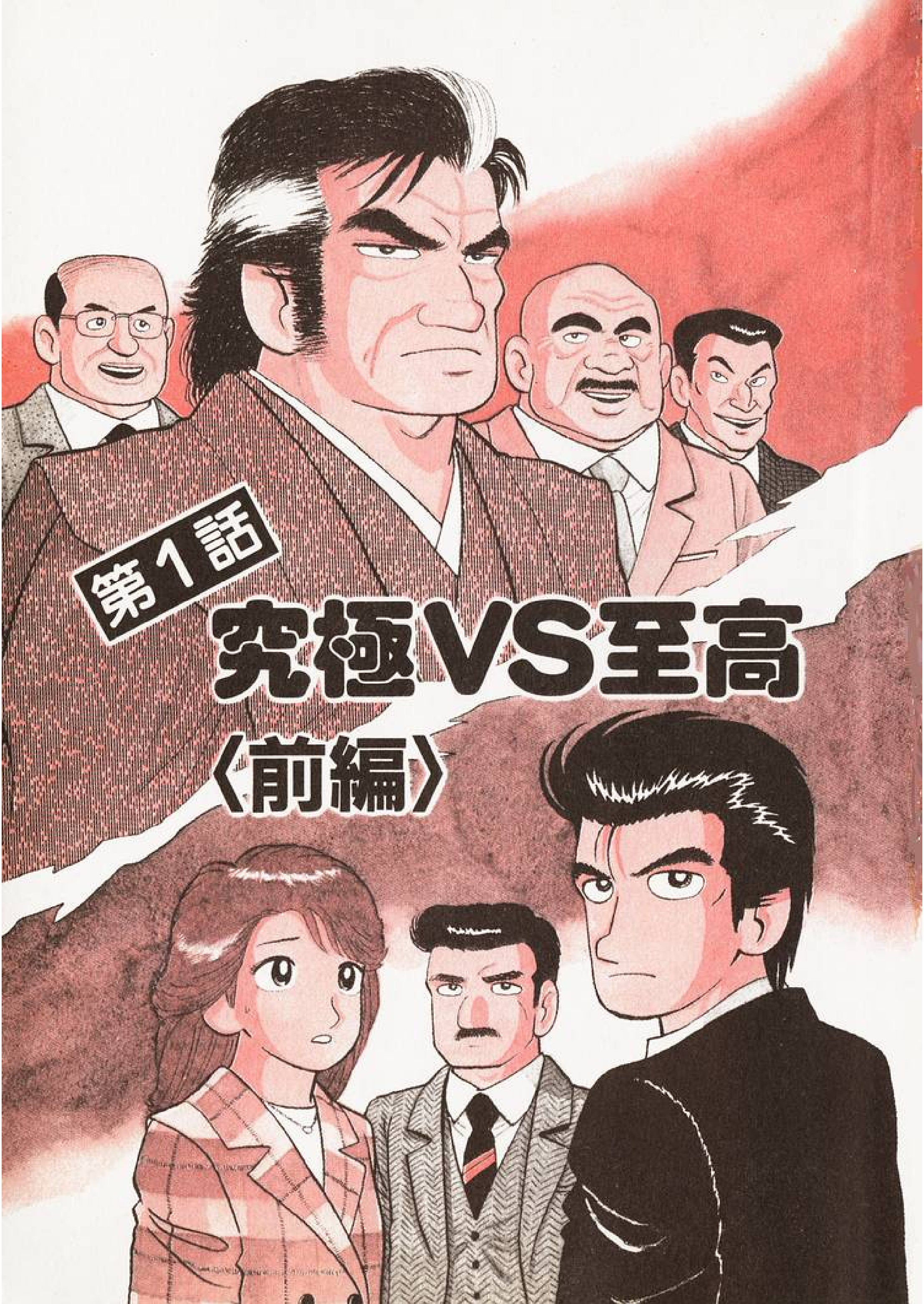
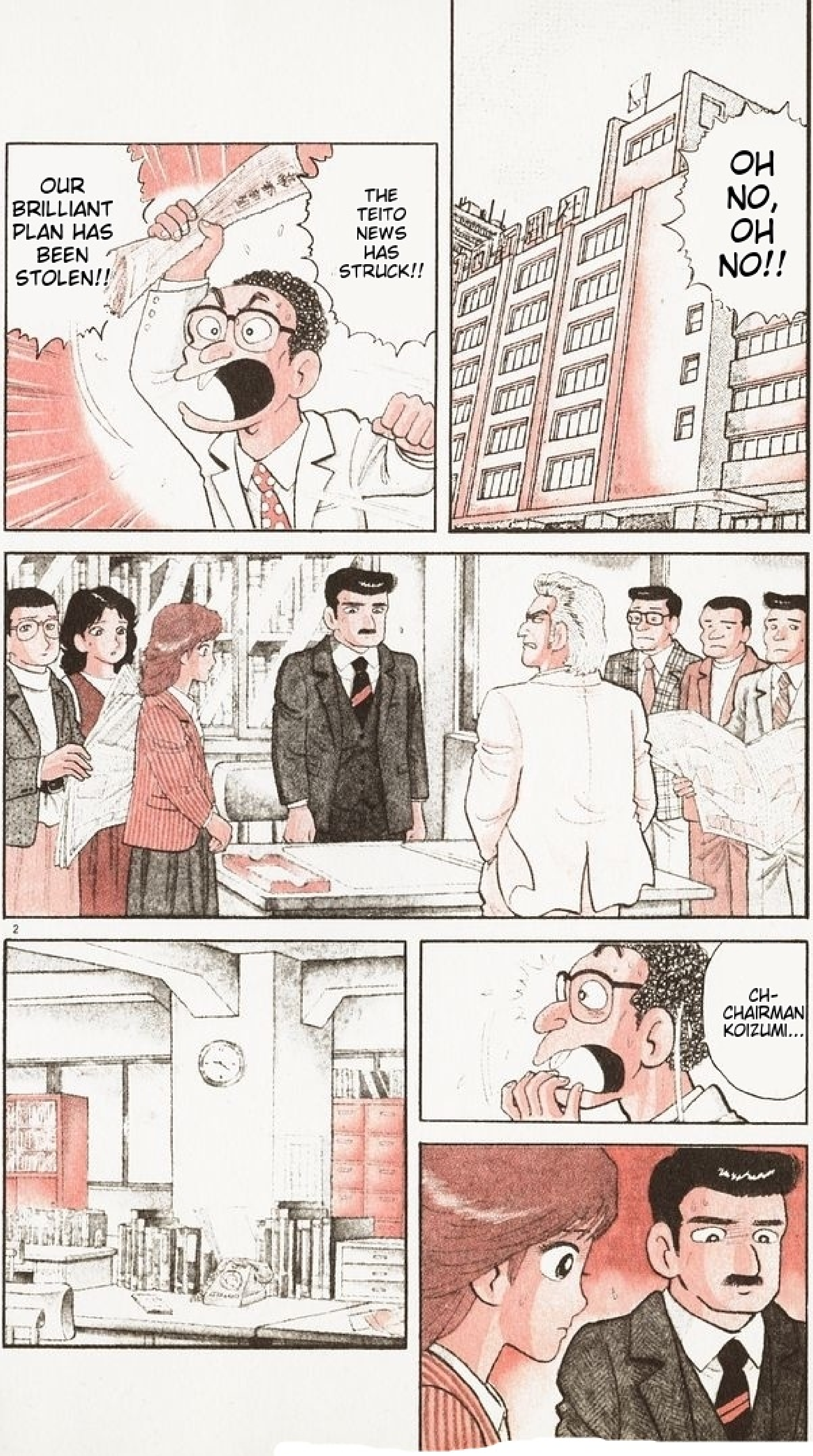
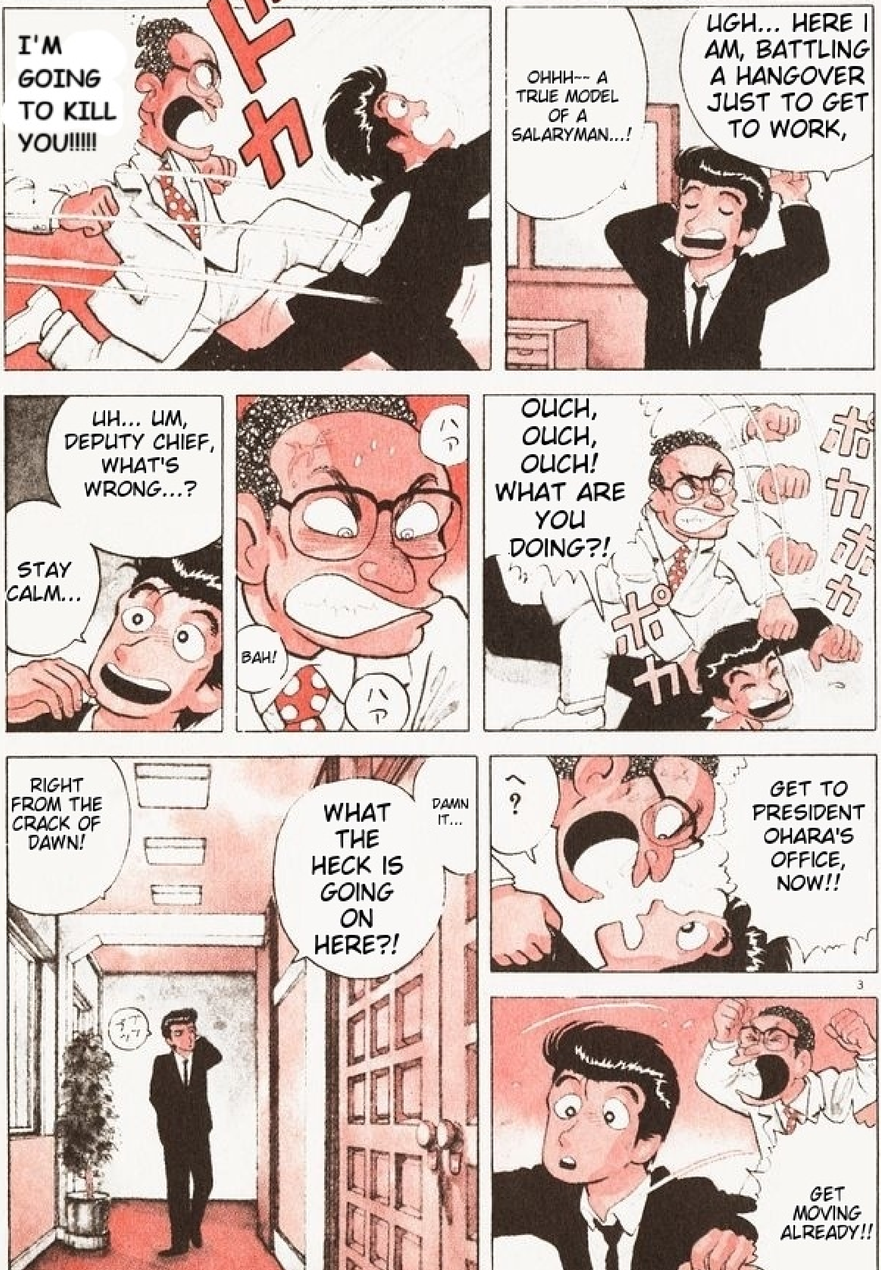


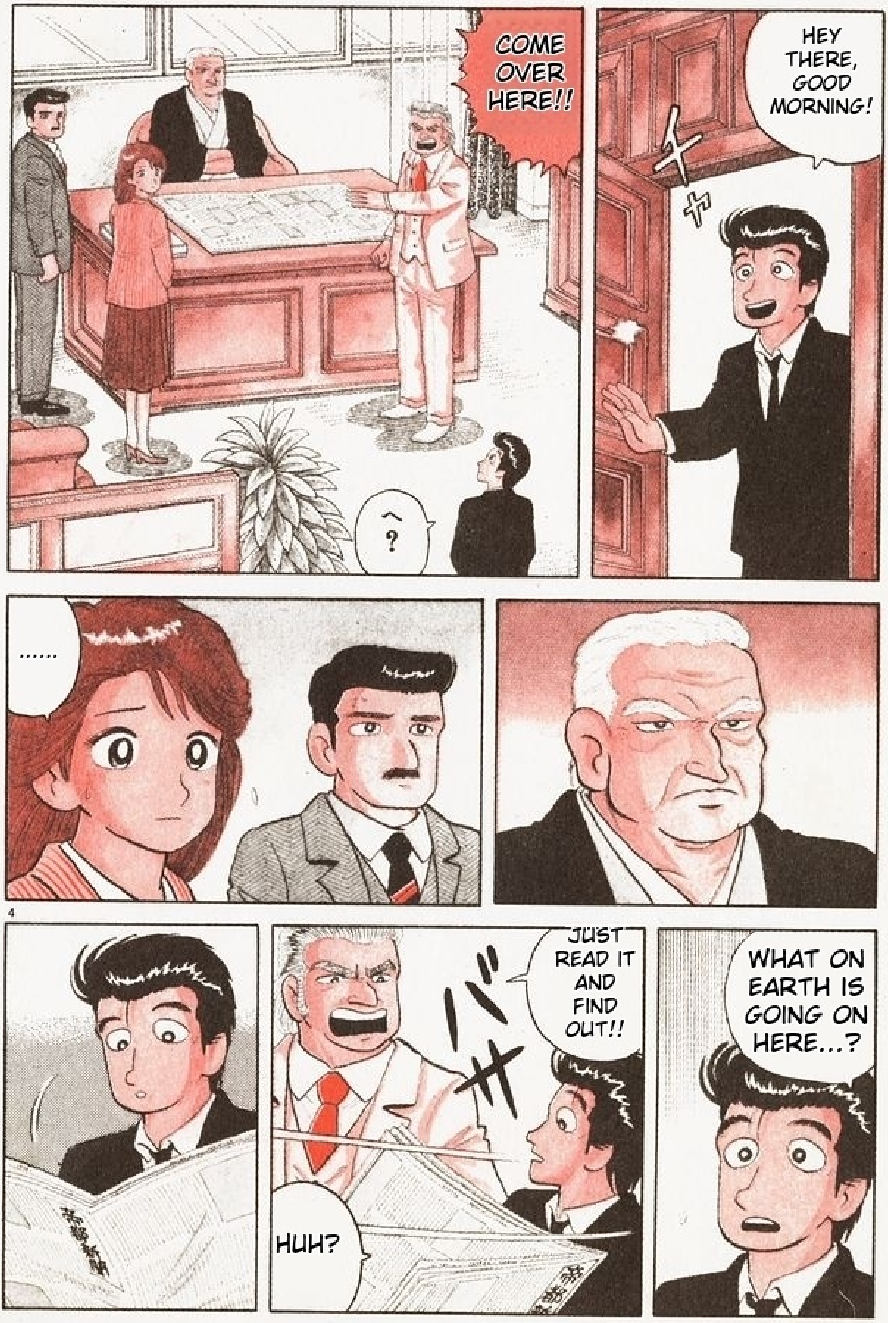
第1話

究極VS至高

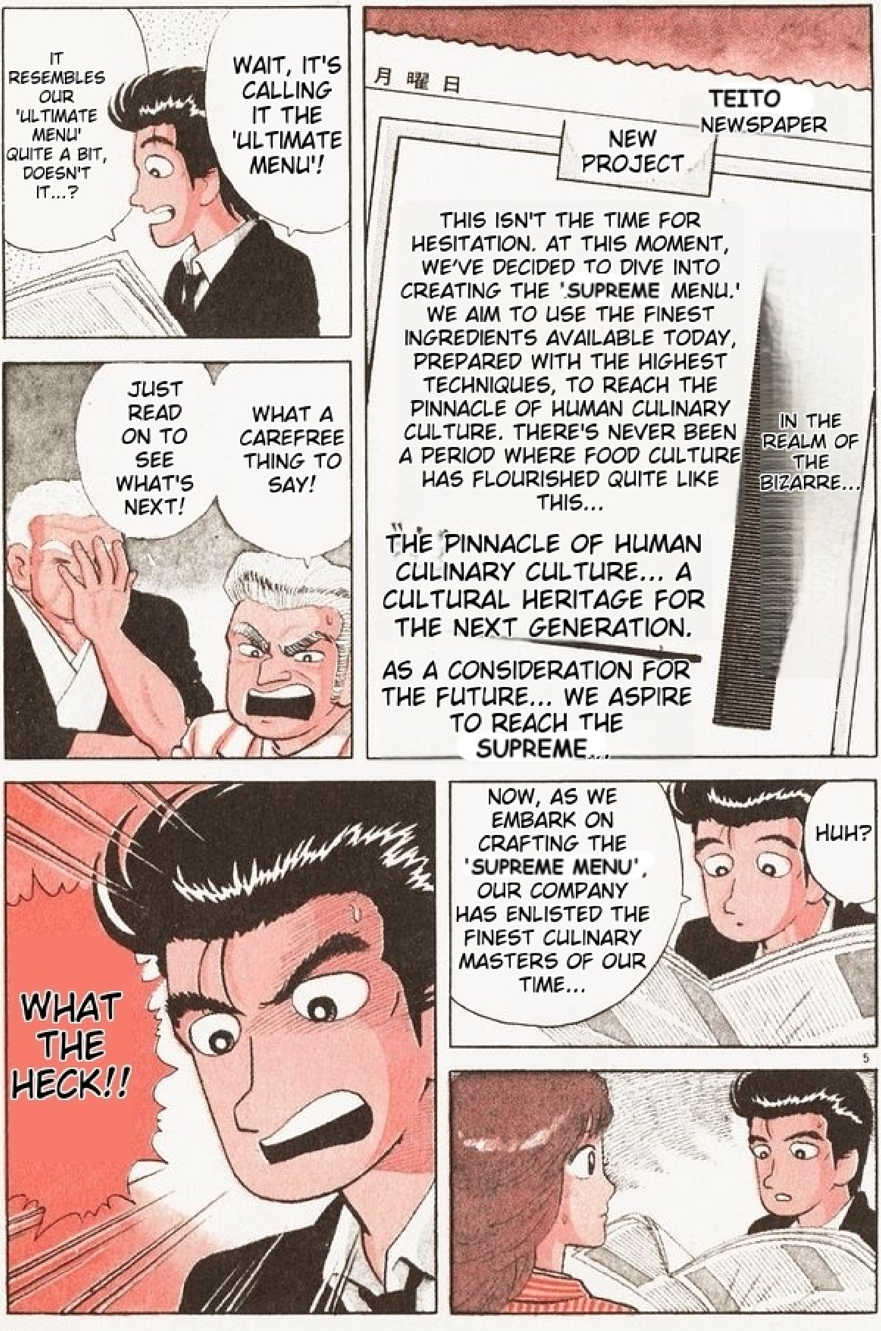
〈前編〉

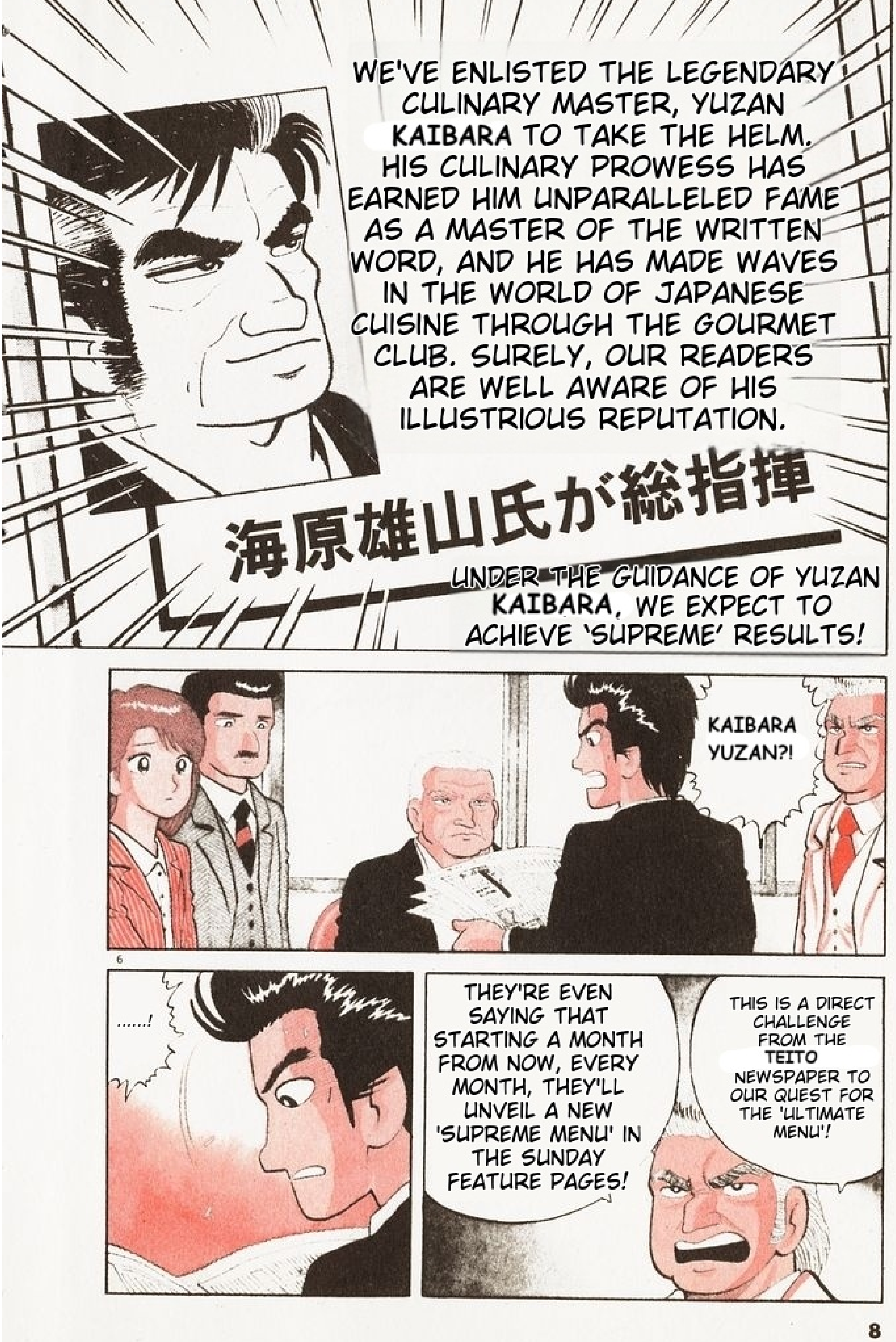

OH NO, OH NO!!
THE TEITO NEWS HAS STRUCK!!
OUR BRILLIANT PLAN HAS BEEN STOLEN!!
CH-CHAIRMAN KOIZUMI...


UGH... HERE I AM, BATTLING A HANGOVER JUST TO GET TO WORK,
OHHH-- A TRUE MODEL OF A SALARYMAN...!
ドカ
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!!!!!
OUCH, OUCH, OUCH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
ポカポカ
ポカ
ハッ
BAH!
ハッ
UH... UM, DEPUTY CHIEF, WHAT'S WRONG...?
STAY CALM...
GET TO PRESIDENT OHARA'S OFFICE, NOW!!
?
GET MOVING ALREADY!!
DAMN IT...
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON HERE?!
RIGHT FROM THE CRACK OF DAWN!

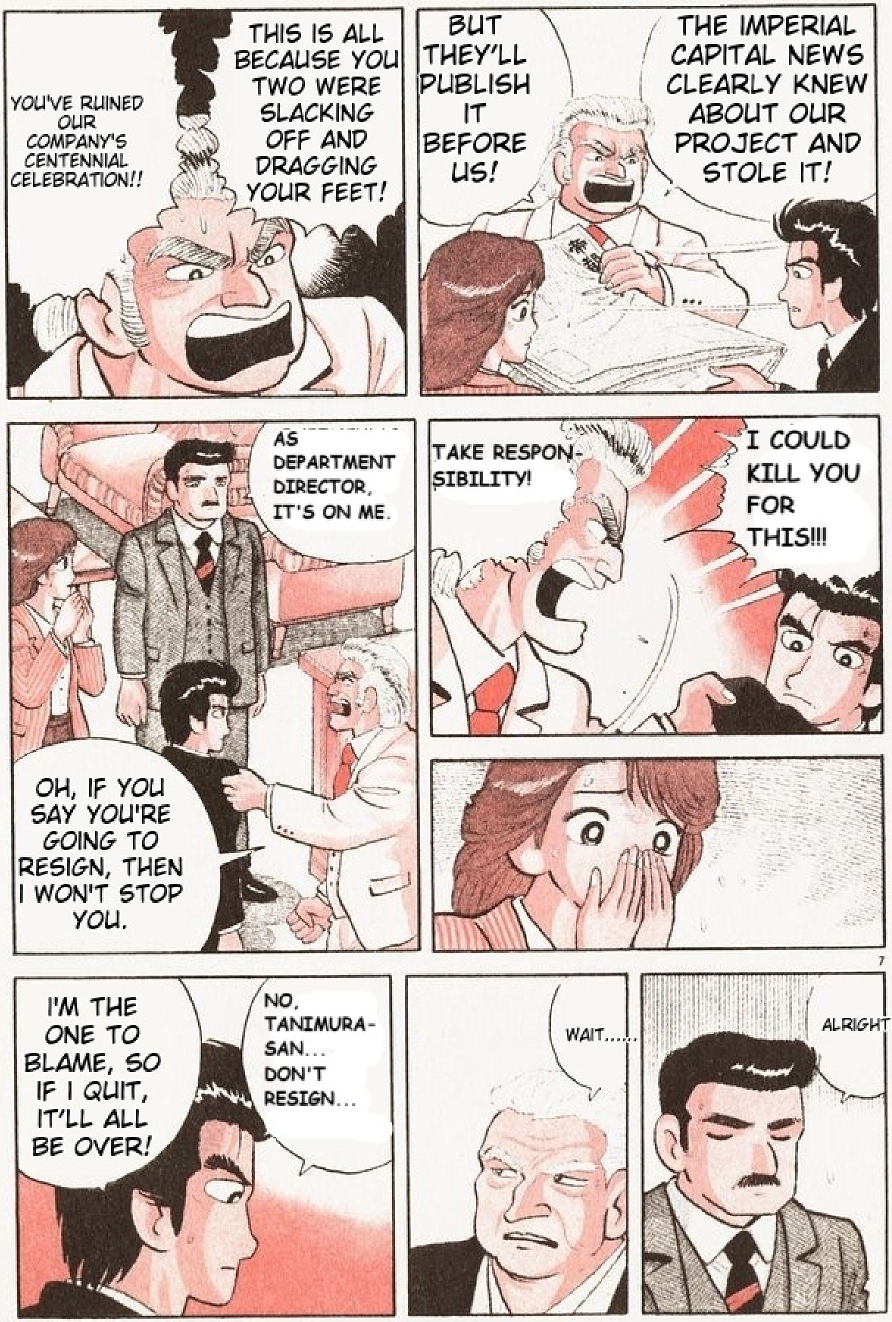

HEY THERE, GOOD MORNING!
COME OVER HERE!!
?
……
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE...?
JUST READ IT AND FIND OUT!!
HUH?

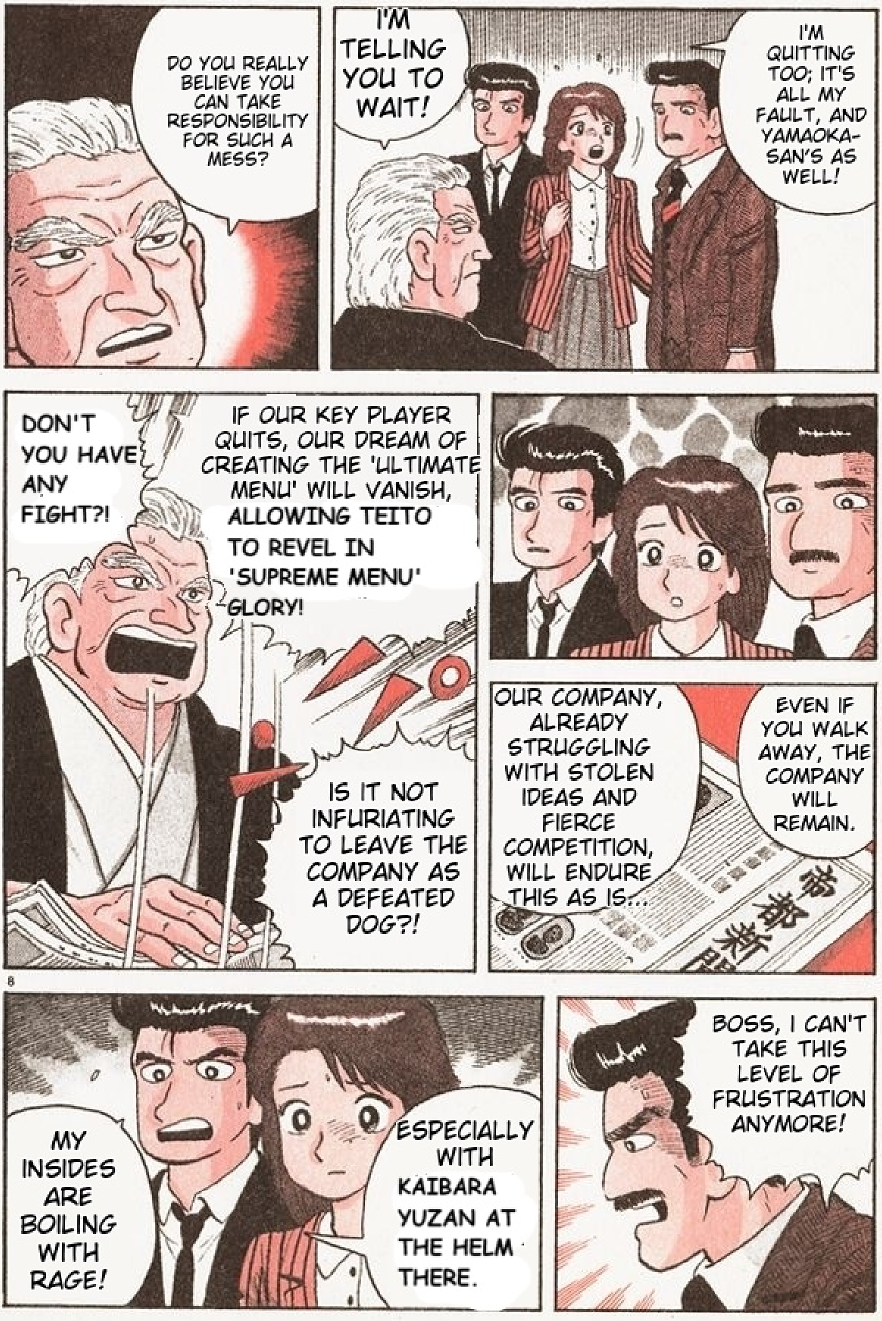
GOURMET WARRIORS 15

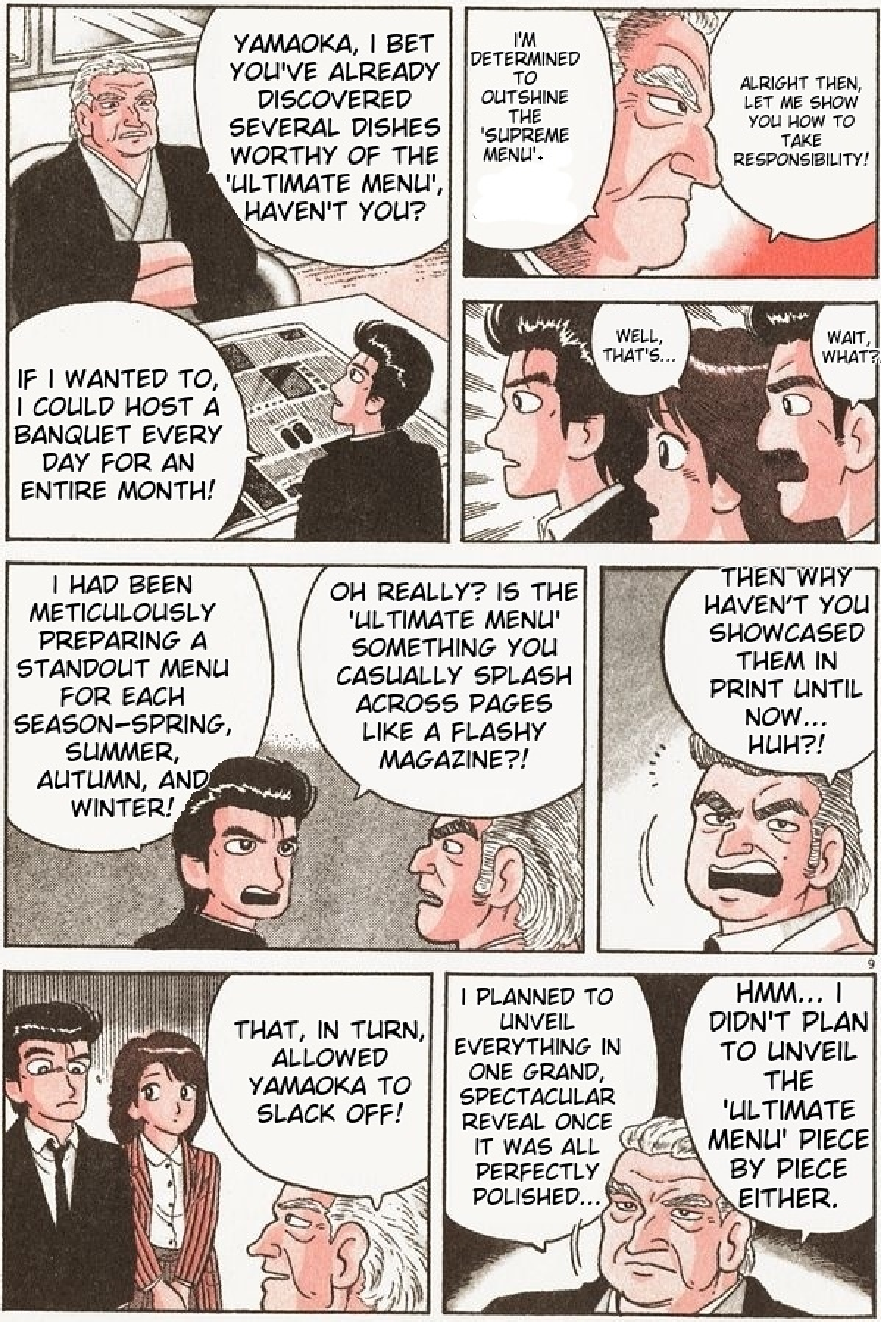

月 曜 日
TEITO NEWSPAPER
NEW PROJECT
THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR HESITATION. AT THIS MOMENT, WE'VE DECIDED TO DIVE INTO CREATING THE 'SUPREME MENU.' WE AIM TO USE THE FINEST INGREDIENTS AVAILABLE TODAY, PREPARED WITH THE HIGHEST TECHNIQUES, TO REACH THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN CULINARY CULTURE. THERE'S NEVER BEEN A PERIOD WHERE FOOD CULTURE HAS FLOURISHED QUITE LIKE THIS...
IN THE REALM OF THE BIZARRE...
THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN CULINARY CULTURE... A CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.
AS A CONSIDERATION FOR THE FUTURE... WE ASPIRE TO REACH THE SUPREME...
WAIT, IT'S CALLING IT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!
IT RESEMBLES OUR 'ULTIMATE MENU' QUITE A BIT, DOESN'T IT...?
WHAT A CAREFREE THING TO SAY!
JUST READ ON TO SEE WHAT'S NEXT!
HUH?
NOW, AS WE EMBARK ON CRAFTING THE 'SUPREME MENU', OUR COMPANY HAS ENLISTED THE FINEST CULINARY MASTERS OF OUR TIME...
WHAT THE HECK!!

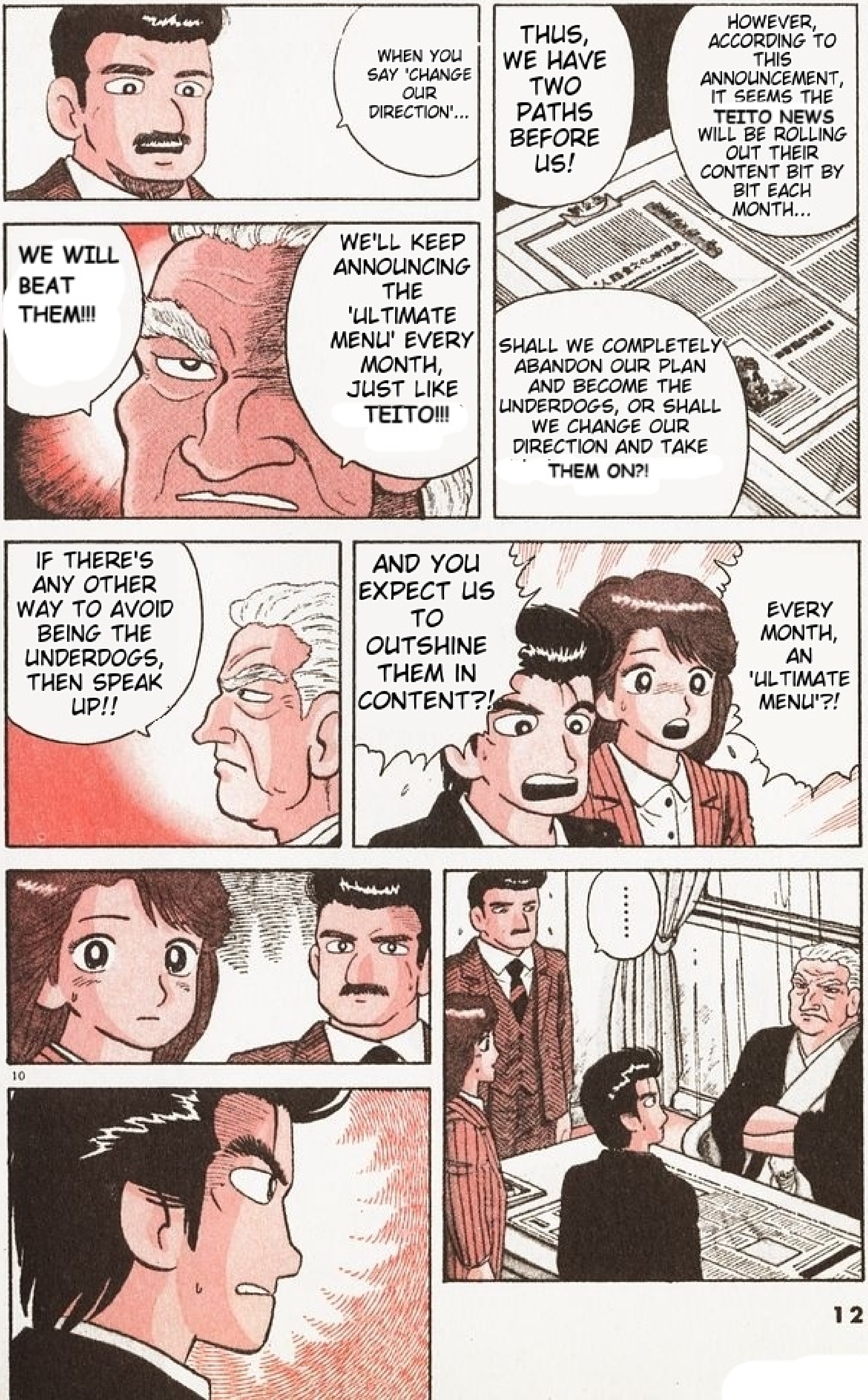

WE'VE ENLISTED THE LEGENDARY CULINARY MASTER, YUZAN KAIBARA TO TAKE THE HELM. HIS CULINARY PROWESS HAS EARNED HIM UNPARALLELED FAME AS A MASTER OF THE WRITTEN WORD, AND HE HAS MADE WAVES IN THE WORLD OF JAPANESE CUISINE THROUGH THE GOURMET CLUB. SURELY, OUR READERS ARE WELL AWARE OF HIS ILLUSTRIOUS REPUTATION.
海原雄山氏が総指揮
UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF YUZAN KAIBARA, WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE 'SUPREME' RESULTS!
KAIBARA YUZAN?!
THIS IS A DIRECT CHALLENGE FROM THE TEITO NEWSPAPER TO OUR QUEST FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!
THEY'RE EVEN SAYING THAT STARTING A MONTH FROM NOW, EVERY MONTH, THEY'LL UNVEIL A NEW 'SUPREME MENU' IN THE SUNDAY FEATURE PAGES!
......!

GOURMET WARRIORS 15

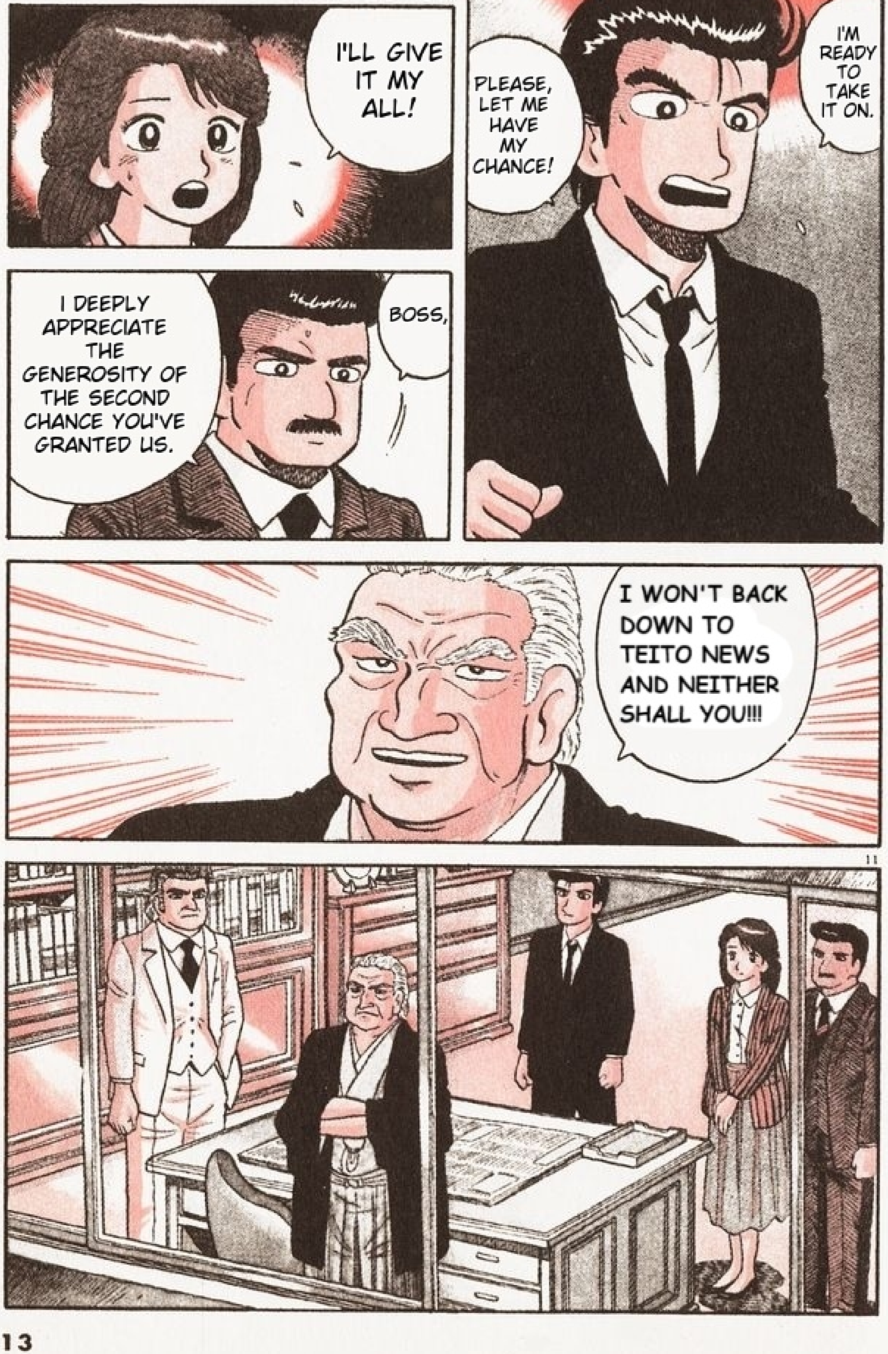

THE IMPERIAL CAPITAL NEWS CLEARLY KNEW ABOUT OUR PROJECT AND STOLE IT!
BUT THEY'LL PUBLISH IT BEFORE US!
...
THIS IS ALL BECAUSE YOU TWO WERE SLACKING OFF AND DRAGGING YOUR FEET!
YOU'VE RUINED OUR COMPANY'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!!
I COULD KILL YOU FOR THIS!!!
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
AS DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR, IT'S ON ME.
OH, IF YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO RESIGN, THEN I WON'T STOP YOU.
7
ALRIGHT.
WAIT......
NO, TANIMURA-SAN... DON'T RESIGN...
I'M THE ONE TO BLAME, SO IF I QUIT, IT'LL ALL BE OVER!

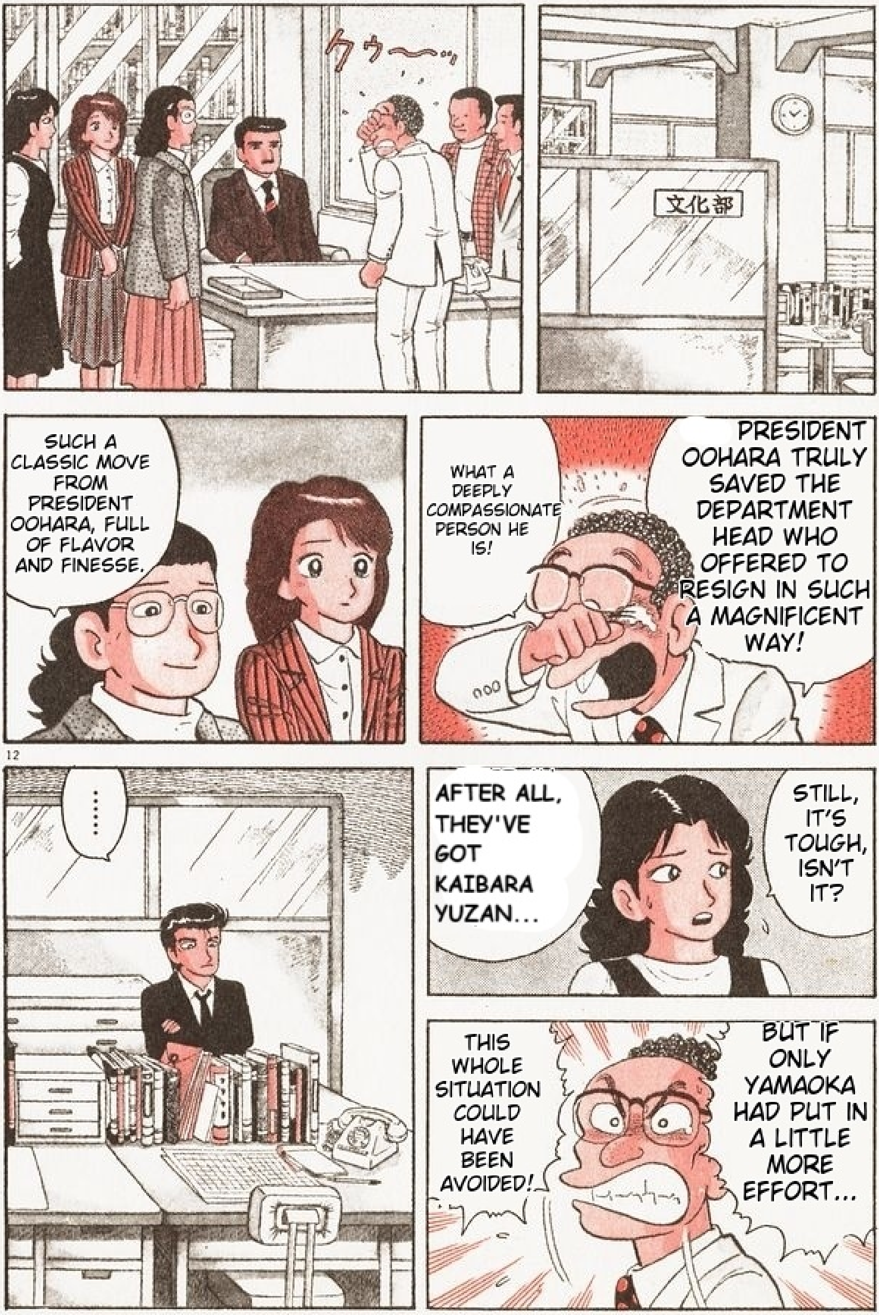

I'M QUITTING TOO; IT'S ALL MY FAULT, AND YAMAOKA-SAN'S AS WELL!
I'M TELLING YOU TO WAIT!
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE YOU CAN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH A MESS?
EVEN IF YOU WALK AWAY, THE COMPANY WILL REMAIN.
OUR COMPANY, ALREADY STRUGGLING WITH STOLEN IDEAS AND FIERCE COMPETITION, WILL ENDURE THIS AS IS...
帝都新聞
IF OUR KEY PLAYER QUITS, OUR DREAM OF CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' WILL VANISH, ALLOWING TEITO TO REVEL IN 'SUPREME MENU' GLORY!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY FIGHT?!
IS IT NOT INFURIATING TO LEAVE THE COMPANY AS A DEFEATED DOG?!
BOSS, I CAN'T TAKE THIS LEVEL OF FRUSTRATION ANYMORE!
ESPECIALLY WITH KAIBARA YUZAN AT THE HELM THERE.
MY INSIDES ARE BOILING WITH RAGE!


ALRIGHT THEN, LET ME SHOW YOU HOW TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY!
I'M DETERMINED TO OUTSHINE THE 'SUPREME MENU'.
WAIT, WHAT?!?!
WELL, THAT'S...
YAMAOKA, I BET YOU'VE ALREADY DISCOVERED SEVERAL DISHES WORTHY OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU', HAVEN'T YOU?
IF I WANTED TO, I COULD HOST A BANQUET EVERY DAY FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH!
THEN WHY HAVEN'T YOU SHOWCASED THEM IN PRINT UNTIL NOW... HUH?!
OH REALLY? IS THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' SOMETHING YOU CASUALLY SPLASH ACROSS PAGES LIKE A FLASHY MAGAZINE?!
I HAD BEEN METICULOUSLY PREPARING A STANDOUT MENU FOR EACH SEASON—SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN, AND WINTER!
HMM... I DIDN'T PLAN TO UNVEIL THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' PIECE BY PIECE EITHER.
I PLANNED TO UNVEIL EVERYTHING IN ONE GRAND, SPECTACULAR REVEAL ONCE IT WAS ALL PERFECTLY POLISHED...
THAT, IN TURN, ALLOWED YAMAOKA TO SLACK OFF!
9

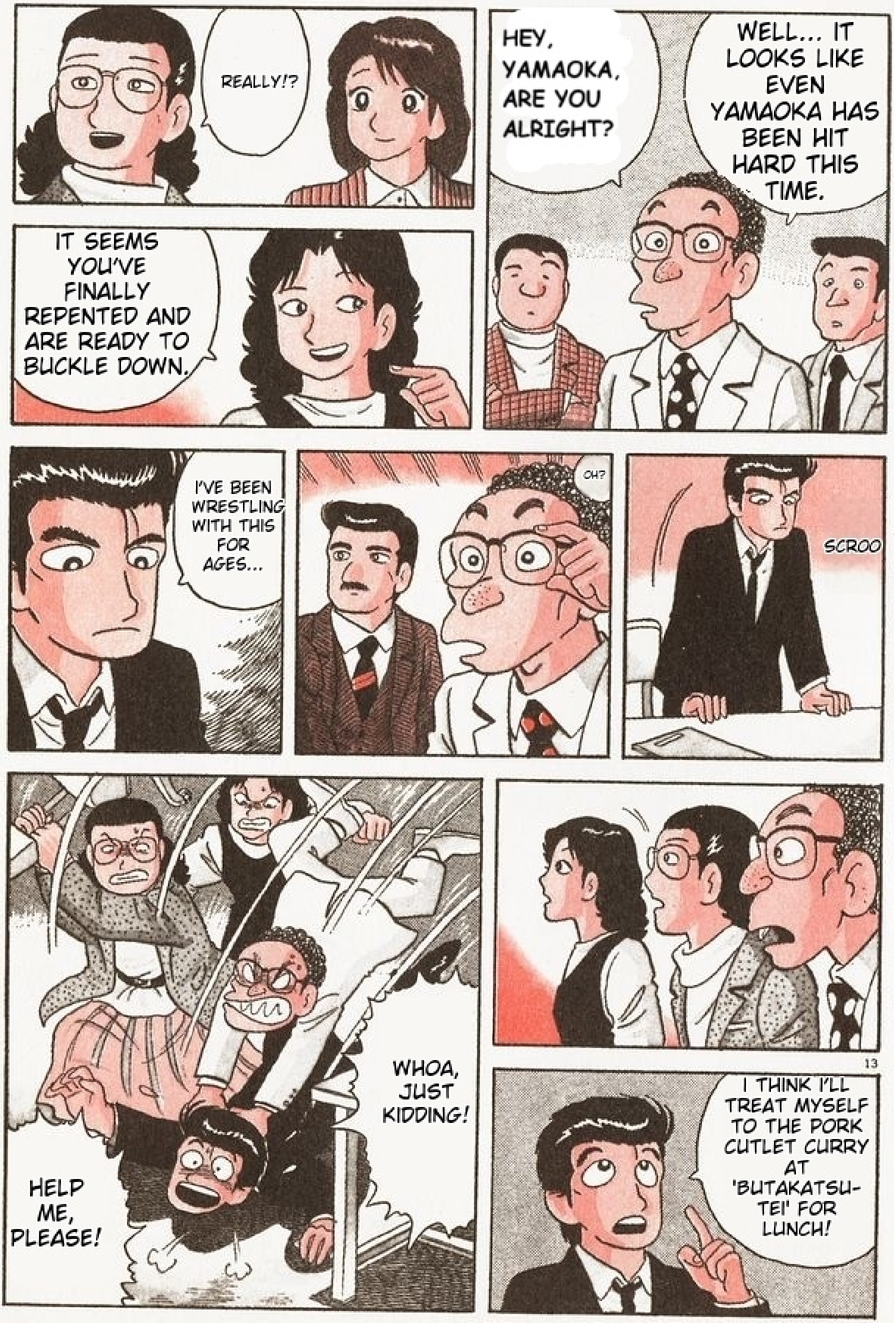

HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, IT SEEMS THE TEITO NEWS WILL BE ROLLING OUT THEIR CONTENT BIT BY BIT EACH MONTH...
THUS, WE HAVE TWO PATHS BEFORE US!
SHALL WE COMPLETELY ABANDON OUR PLAN AND BECOME THE UNDERDOGS, OR SHALL WE CHANGE OUR DIRECTION AND TAKE THEM ON?!
WHEN YOU SAY 'CHANGE OUR DIRECTION'...
WE'LL KEEP ANNOUNCING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' EVERY MONTH, JUST LIKE TEITO!!!
WE WILL BEAT THEM!!!
EVERY MONTH, AN 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!
AND YOU EXPECT US TO OUTSHINE THEM IN CONTENT?!
IF THERE'S ANY OTHER WAY TO AVOID BEING THE UNDERDOGS, THEN SPEAK UP!!
......
10

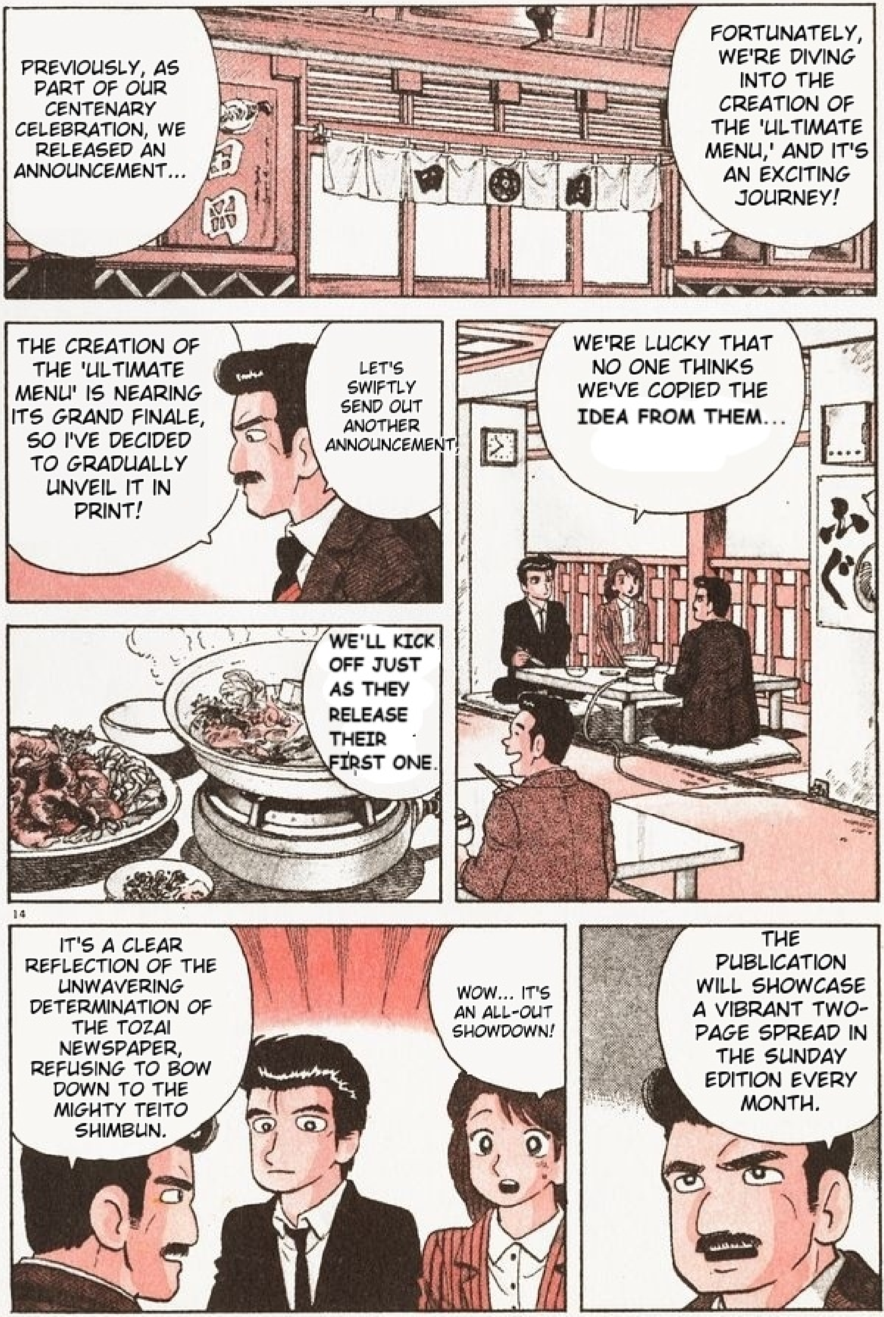
GOURMET WARRIORS 15

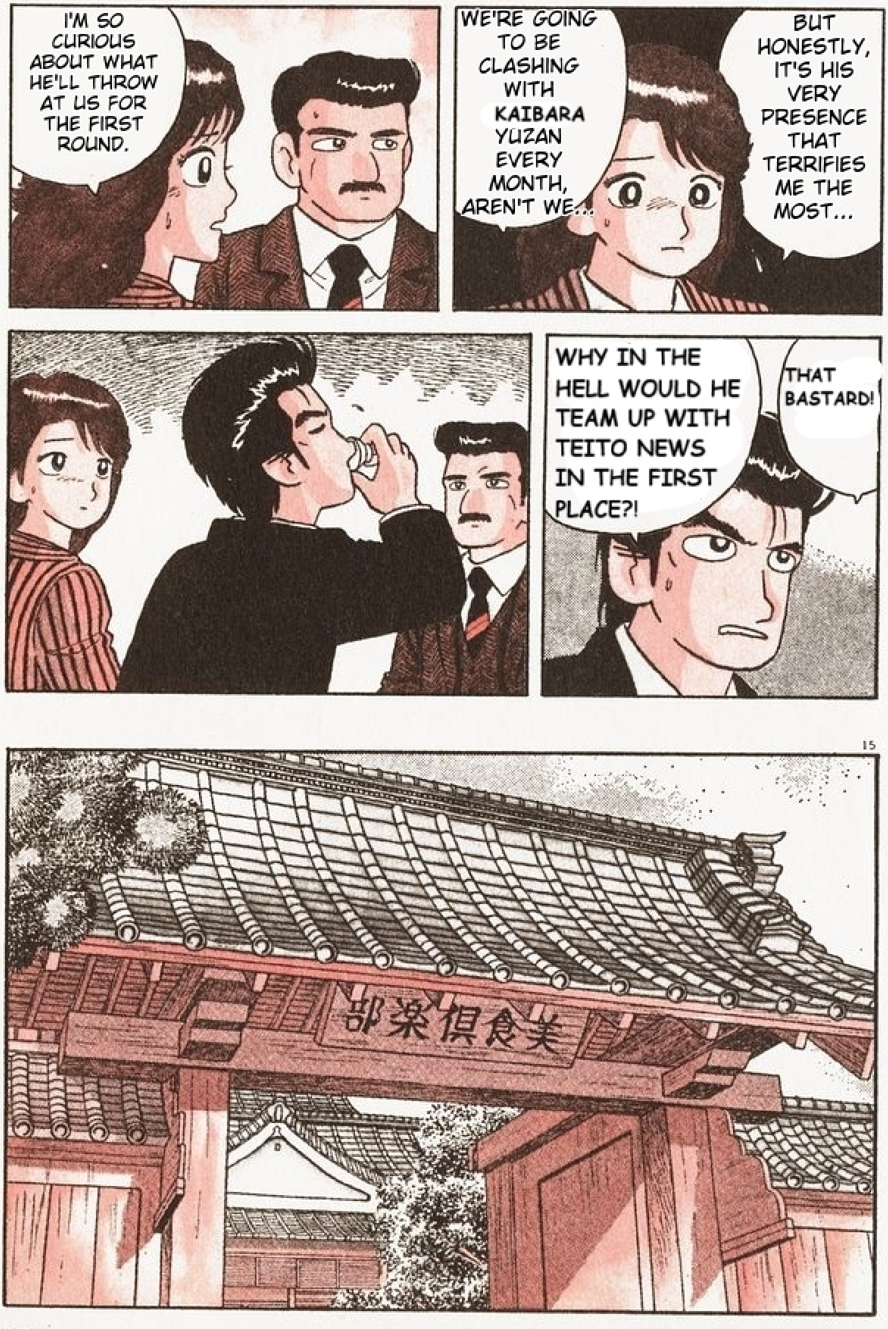

I'M READY TO TAKE IT ON.
PLEASE, LET ME HAVE MY CHANCE!
I'LL GIVE IT MY ALL!
BOSS,
I DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE GENEROSITY OF THE SECOND CHANCE YOU'VE GRANTED US.
I WON'T BACK DOWN TO TEITO NEWS AND NEITHER SHALL YOU!!!

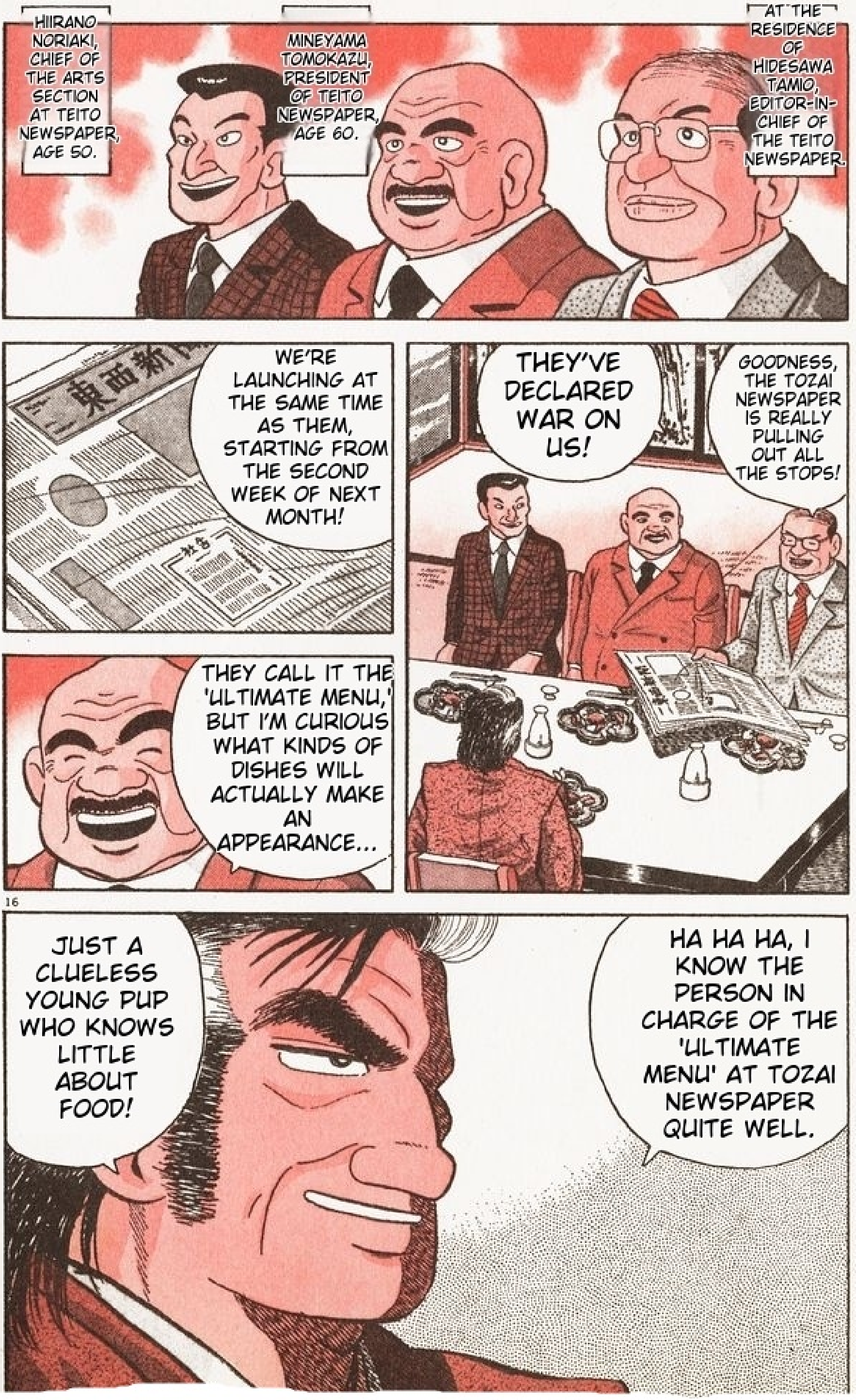

文化部
クゥ〜…
PRESIDENT OOHARA TRULY SAVED THE DEPARTMENT HEAD WHO OFFERED TO RESIGN IN SUCH A MAGNIFICENT WAY!
WHAT A DEEPLY COMPASSIONATE PERSON HE IS!
SUCH A CLASSIC MOVE FROM PRESIDENT OOHARA, FULL OF FLAVOR AND FINESSE.
STILL, IT'S TOUGH, ISN'T IT?
AFTER ALL, THEY'VE GOT KAIBARA YUZAN...
BUT IF ONLY YAMAOKA HAD PUT IN A LITTLE MORE EFFORT...
THIS WHOLE SITUATION COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED!
……

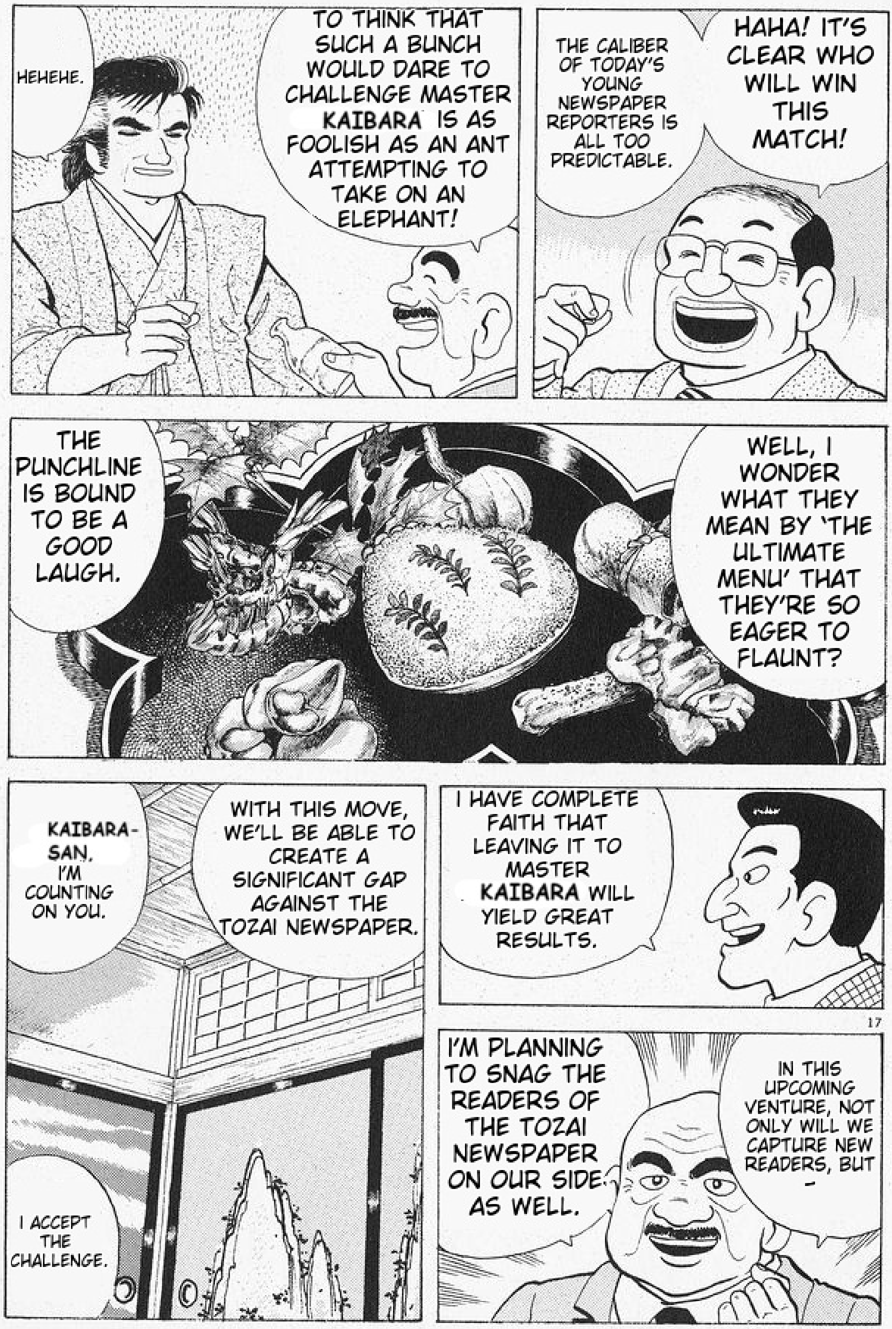
GOURMET WARRIORS 15

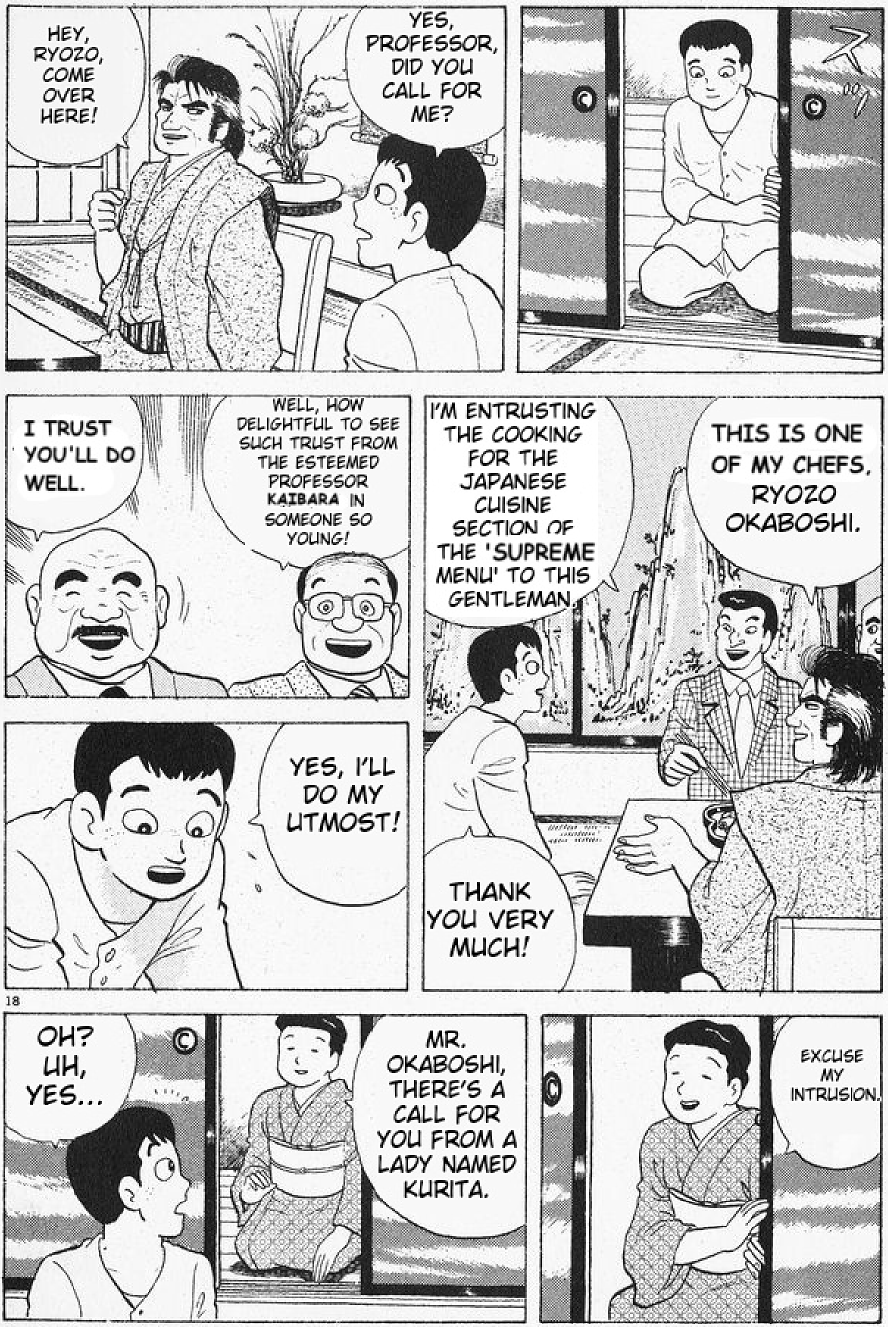

WELL... IT LOOKS LIKE EVEN YAMAOKA HAS BEEN HIT HARD THIS TIME.
HEY, YAMAOKA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
REALLY!?
IT SEEMS YOU'VE FINALLY REPENTED AND ARE READY TO BUCKLE DOWN.
SCROO
OH?
I'VE BEEN WRESTLING WITH THIS FOR AGES...
I THINK I'LL TREAT MYSELF TO THE PORK CUTLET CURRY AT 'BUTAKATSU-TEI' FOR LUNCH!
WHOA, JUST KIDDING!
HELP ME, PLEASE!

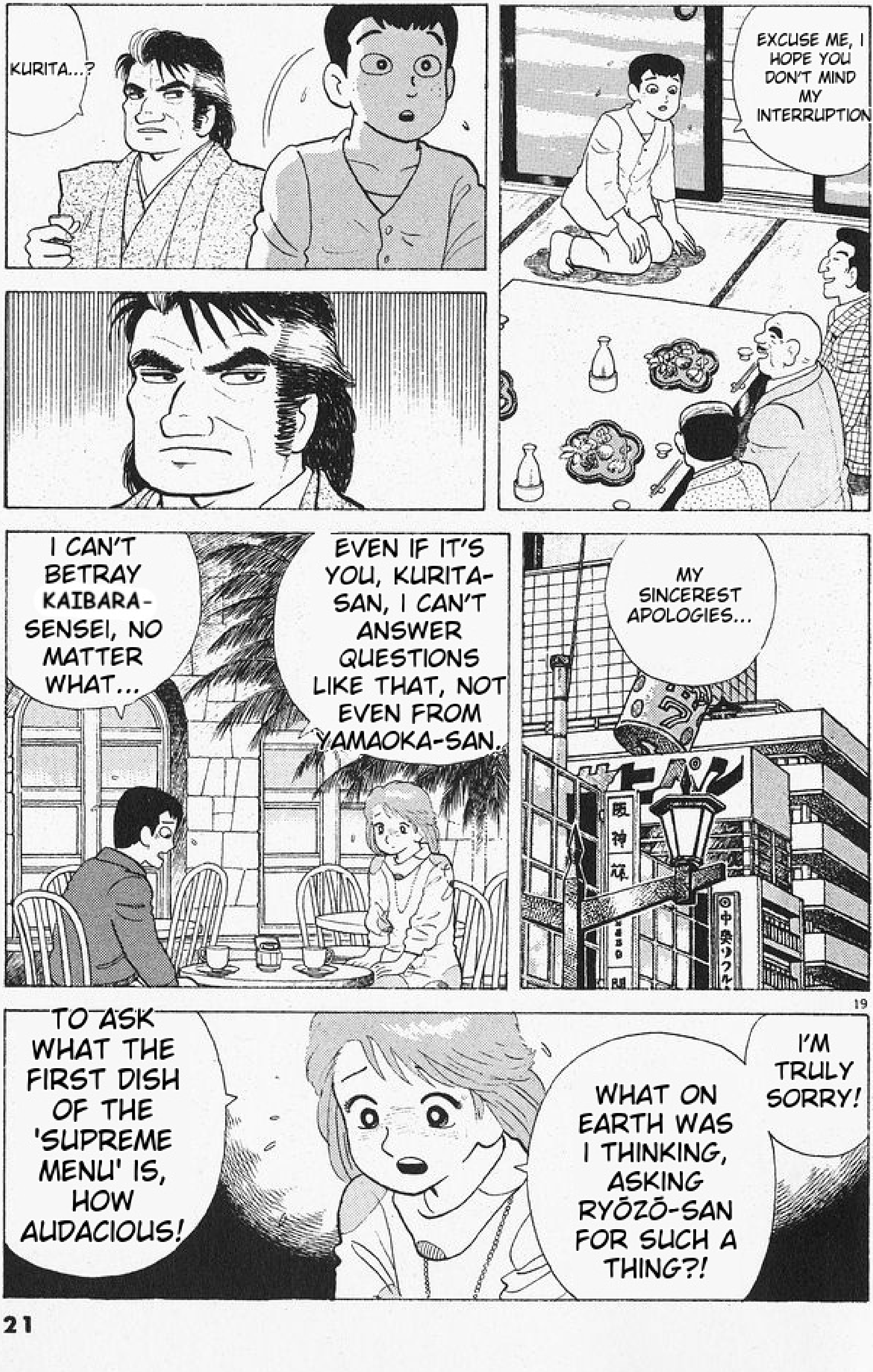

FORTUNATELY, WE'RE DIVING INTO THE CREATION OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' AND IT'S AN EXCITING JOURNEY!
PREVIOUSLY, AS PART OF OUR CENTENARY CELEBRATION, WE RELEASED AN ANNOUNCEMENT...
WE'RE LUCKY THAT NO ONE THINKS WE'VE COPIED THE IDEA FROM THEM...
LET'S SWIFTLY SEND OUT ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT!
THE CREATION OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IS NEARING ITS GRAND FINALE, SO I'VE DECIDED TO GRADUALLY UNVEIL IT IN PRINT!
WE'LL KICK OFF JUST AS THEY RELEASE THEIR FIRST ONE.
THE PUBLICATION WILL SHOWCASE A VIBRANT TWO-PAGE SPREAD IN THE SUNDAY EDITION EVERY MONTH.
WOW... IT'S AN ALL-OUT SHOWDOWN!
IT'S A CLEAR REFLECTION OF THE UNWAVERING DETERMINATION OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER, REFUSING TO BOW DOWN TO THE MIGHTY TEITO SHIMBUN.

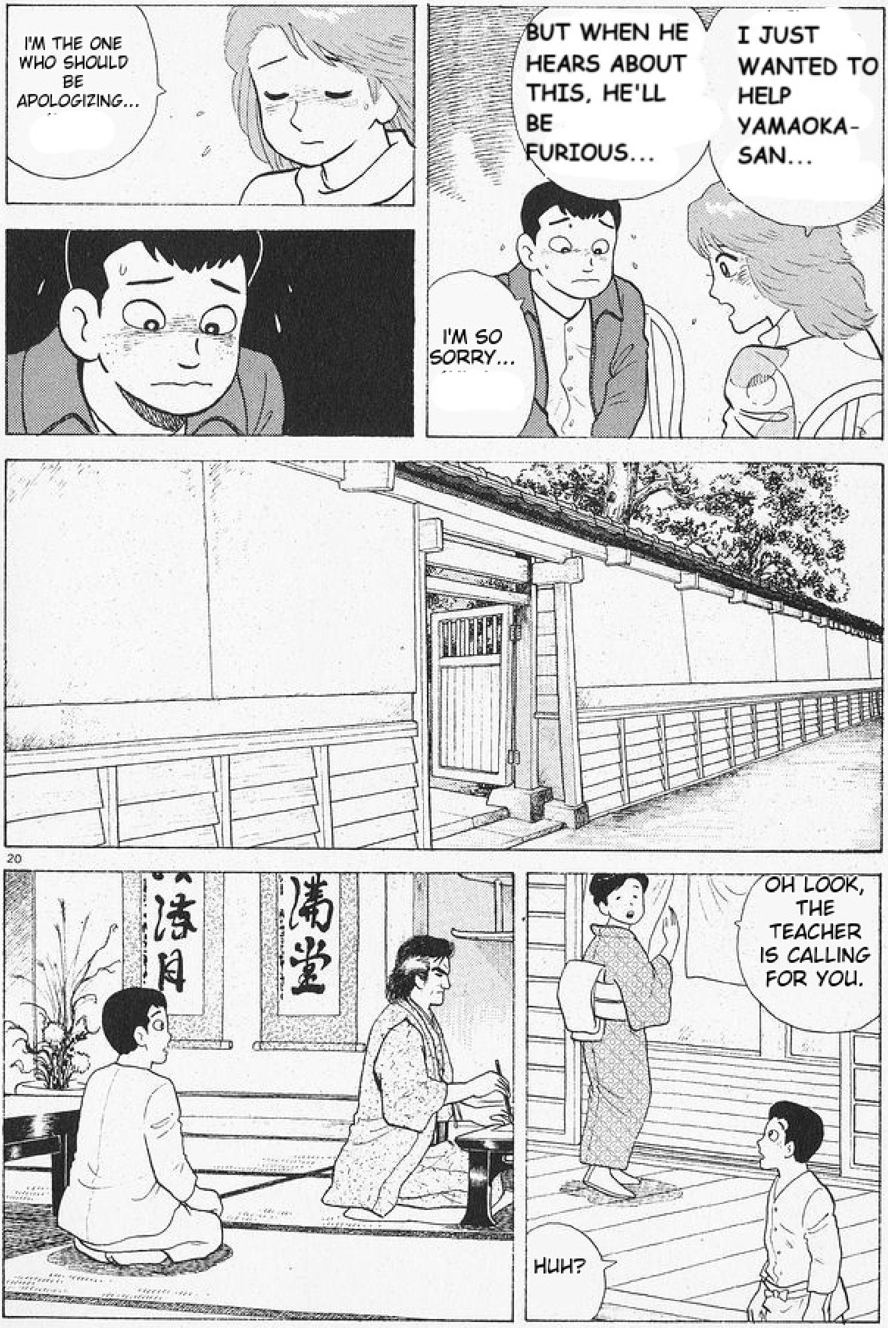

I'M SO CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT HE'LL THROW AT US FOR THE FIRST ROUND.
WE'RE GOING TO BE CLASHING WITH KAIBARA YUZAN EVERY MONTH, AREN'T WE...
BUT HONESTLY, IT'S HIS VERY PRESENCE THAT TERRIFIES ME THE MOST...
WHY IN THE HELL WOULD HE TEAM UP WITH TEITO NEWS IN THE FIRST PLACE?!
THAT BASTARD!
15
美食倶楽部

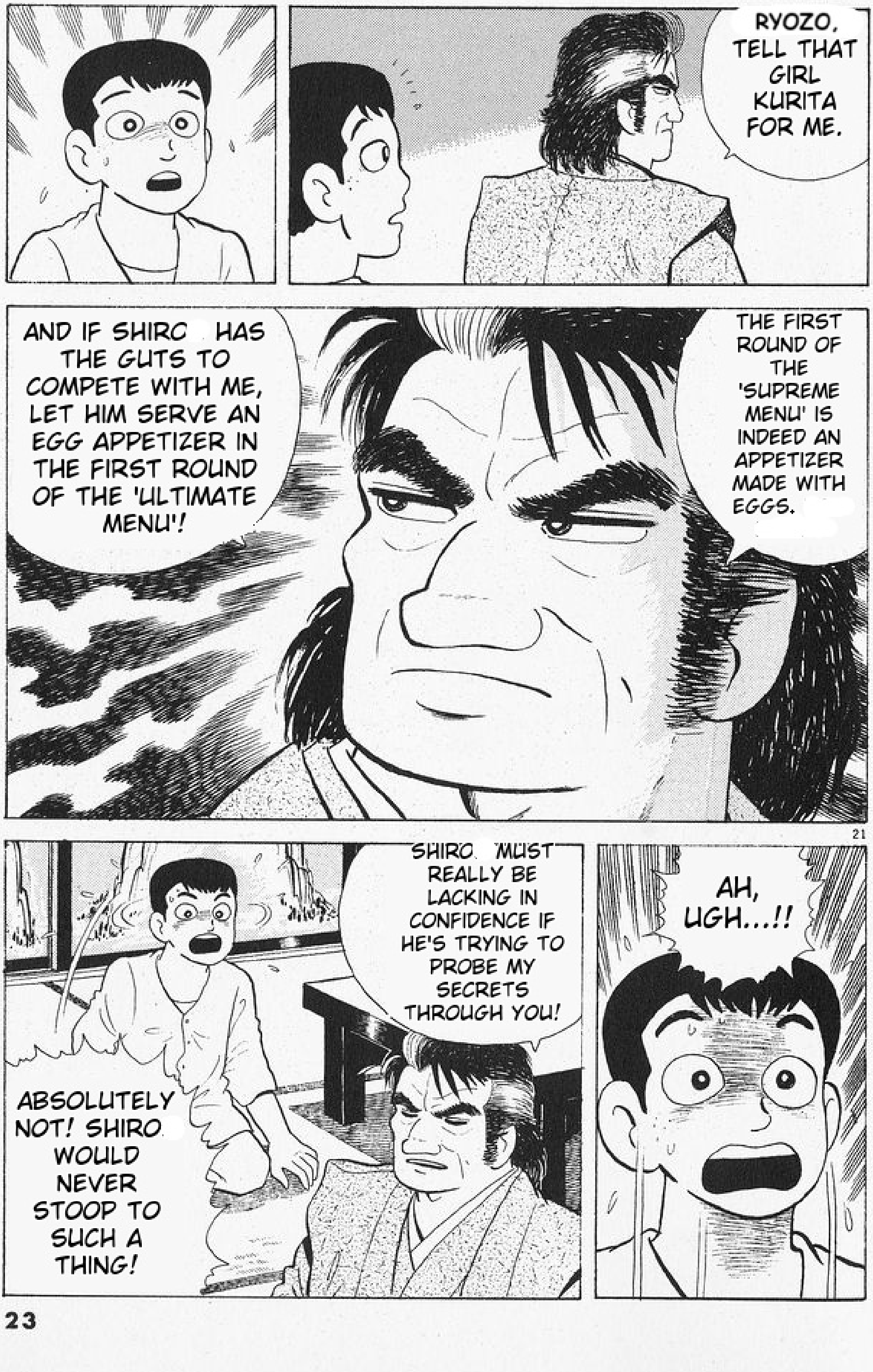

AT THE RESIDENCE OF HIDESAWA TAMIO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE TEITO NEWSPAPER.
MINEYAMA TOMOKAZU, PRESIDENT OF TEITO NEWSPAPER, AGE 60.
HIIRANO NORIAKI, CHIEF OF THE ARTS SECTION AT TEITO NEWSPAPER, AGE 50.
GOODNESS, THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER IS REALLY PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS!
THEY'VE DECLARED WAR ON US!
東西新
WE'RE LAUNCHING AT THE SAME TIME AS THEM, STARTING FROM THE SECOND WEEK OF NEXT MONTH!
THEY CALL IT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,' BUT I'M CURIOUS WHAT KINDS OF DISHES WILL ACTUALLY MAKE AN APPEARANCE...
HA HA HA, I KNOW THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AT TOZAI NEWSPAPER QUITE WELL.
JUST A CLUELESS YOUNG PUP WHO KNOWS LITTLE ABOUT FOOD!

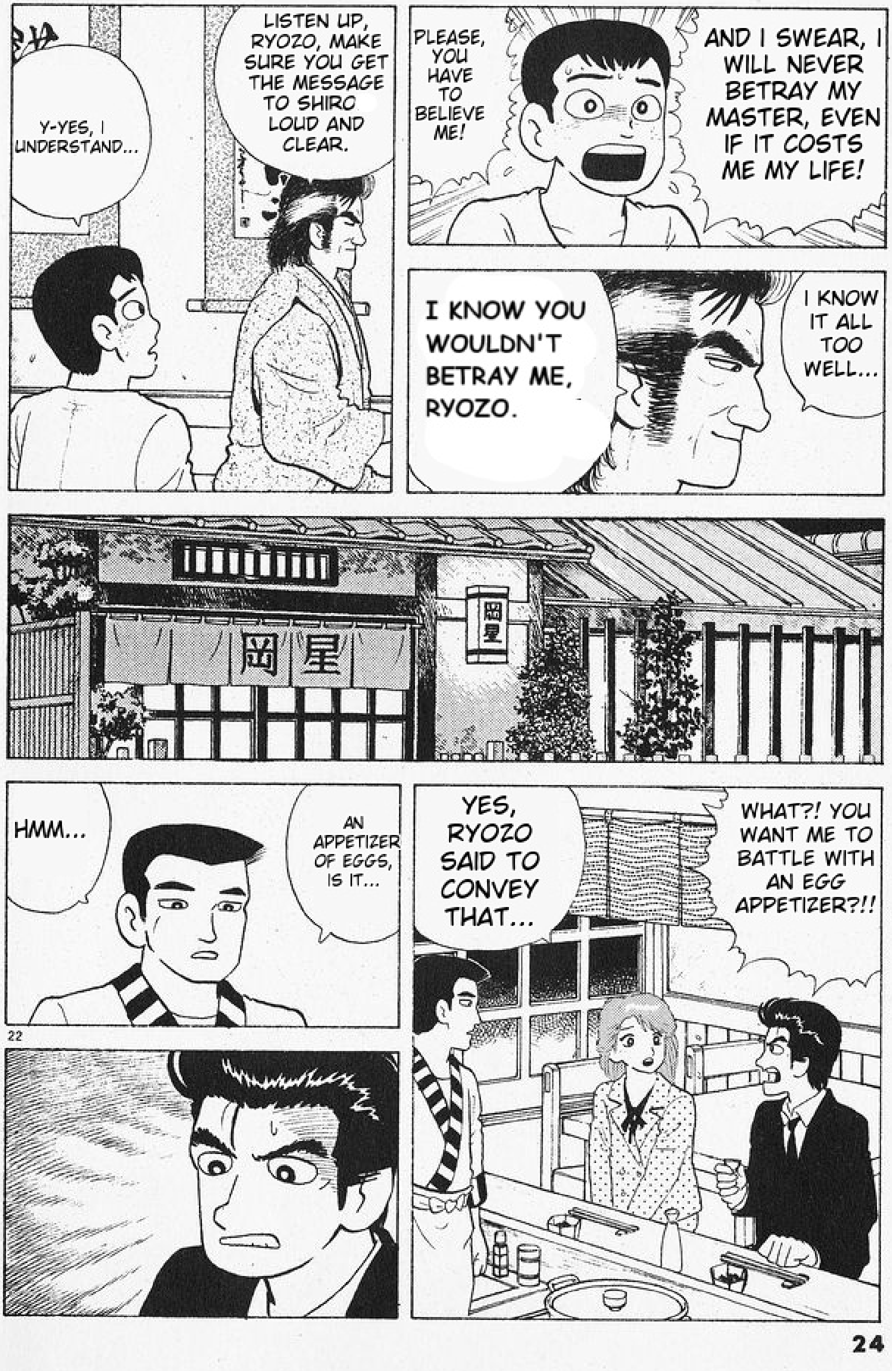

HAHA! IT'S CLEAR WHO WILL WIN THIS MATCH!
THE CALIBER OF TODAY'S YOUNG NEWSPAPER REPORTERS IS ALL TOO PREDICTABLE.
TO THINK THAT SUCH A BUNCH WOULD DARE TO CHALLENGE MASTER KAIBARA IS AS FOOLISH AS AN ANT ATTEMPTING TO TAKE ON AN ELEPHANT!
HEHEHE.
WELL, I WONDER WHAT THEY MEAN BY 'THE ULTIMATE MENU' THAT THEY'RE SO EAGER TO FLAUNT?
THE PUNCHLINE IS BOUND TO BE A GOOD LAUGH.
I HAVE COMPLETE FAITH THAT LEAVING IT TO MASTER KAIBARA WILL YIELD GREAT RESULTS.
WITH THIS MOVE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO CREATE A SIGNIFICANT GAP AGAINST THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER.
KAIBARA-SAN, I'M COUNTING ON YOU.
IN THIS UPCOMING VENTURE, NOT ONLY WILL WE CAPTURE NEW READERS, BUT -
I'M PLANNING TO SNAG THE READERS OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER ON OUR SIDE AS WELL.
I ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE.

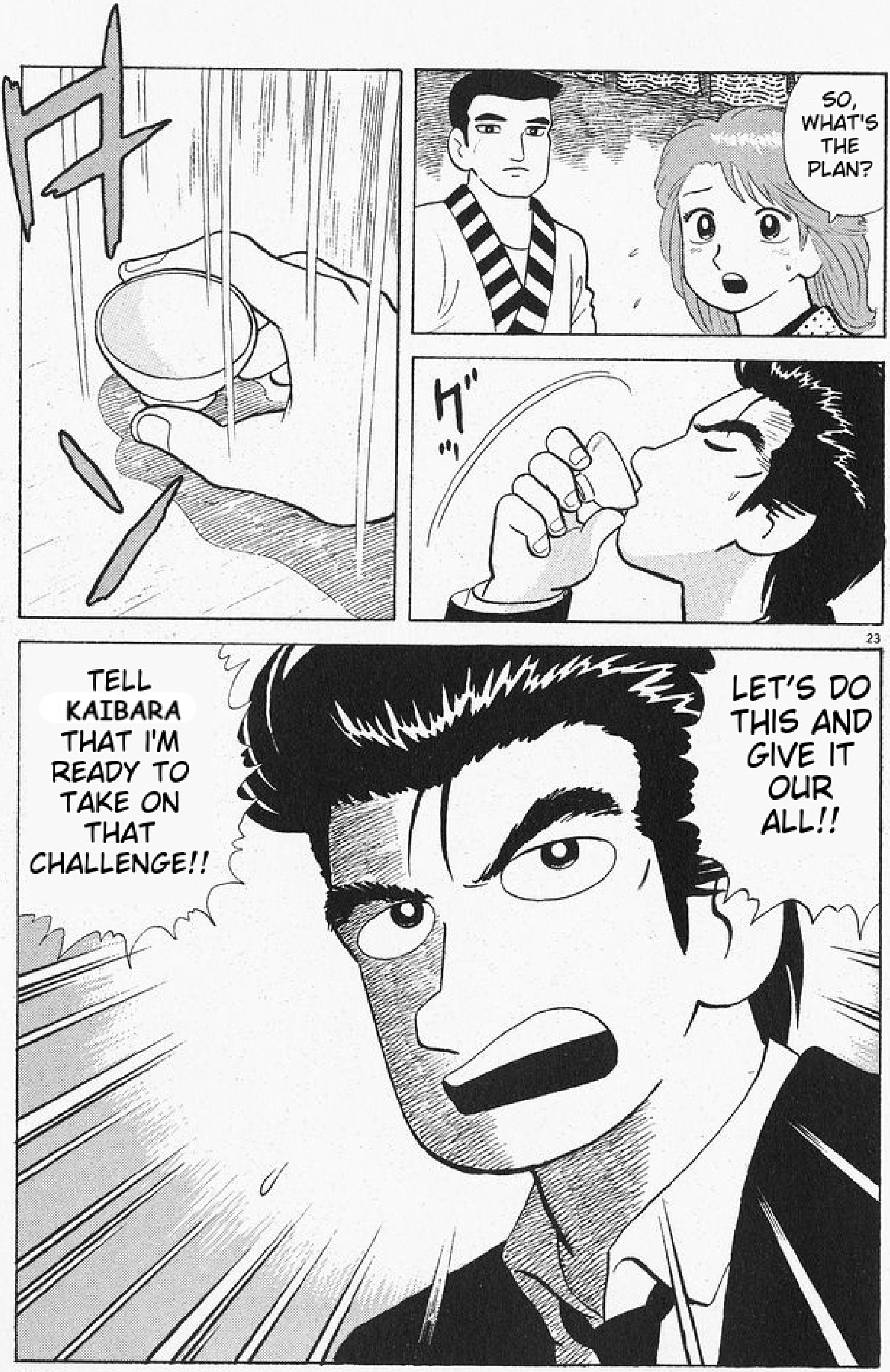

ス
YES, PROFESSOR, DID YOU CALL FOR ME?
HEY, RYOZO, COME OVER HERE!
THIS IS ONE OF MY CHEFS, RYOZO OKABOSHI.
I'M ENTRUSTING THE COOKING FOR THE JAPANESE CUISINE SECTION OF THE 'SUPREME MENU' TO THIS GENTLEMAN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
WELL, HOW DELIGHTFUL TO SEE SUCH TRUST FROM THE ESTEEMED PROFESSOR KAIBARA IN SOMEONE SO YOUNG!
I TRUST YOU'LL DO WELL.
YES, I'LL DO MY UTMOST!
EXCUSE MY INTRUSION.
MR. OKABOSHI, THERE'S A CALL FOR YOU FROM A LADY NAMED KURITA.
OH? UH, YES...


EXCUSE ME, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND MY INTERRUPTION.
KURITA...?
MY SINCEREST APOLOGIES...
EVEN IF IT'S YOU, KURITA-SAN, I CAN'T ANSWER QUESTIONS LIKE THAT, NOT EVEN FROM YAMAOKA-SAN.
I CAN'T BETRAY KAIBARA-SENSEI, NO MATTER WHAT...
19
I'M TRULY SORRY!
WHAT ON EARTH WAS I THINKING, ASKING RYŌZŌ-SAN FOR SUCH A THING?!
TO ASK WHAT THE FIRST DISH OF THE 'SUPREME MENU' IS, HOW AUDACIOUS!


I JUST WANTED TO HELP YAMAOKA-SAN...
BUT WHEN HE HEARS ABOUT THIS, HE'LL BE FURIOUS...
I'M SO SORRY...
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING...
OH LOOK, THE TEACHER IS CALLING FOR YOU.
HUH?


RYOZO, TELL THAT GIRL KURITA FOR ME.
AND IF SHIRO HAS THE GUTS TO COMPETE WITH ME, LET HIM SERVE AN EGG APPETIZER IN THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!
THE FIRST ROUND OF THE 'SUPREME MENU' IS INDEED AN APPETIZER MADE WITH EGGS.
21
SHIRO MUST REALLY BE LACKING IN CONFIDENCE IF HE'S TRYING TO PROBE MY SECRETS THROUGH YOU!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! SHIRO WOULD NEVER STOOP TO SUCH A THING!
AH, UGH...!!

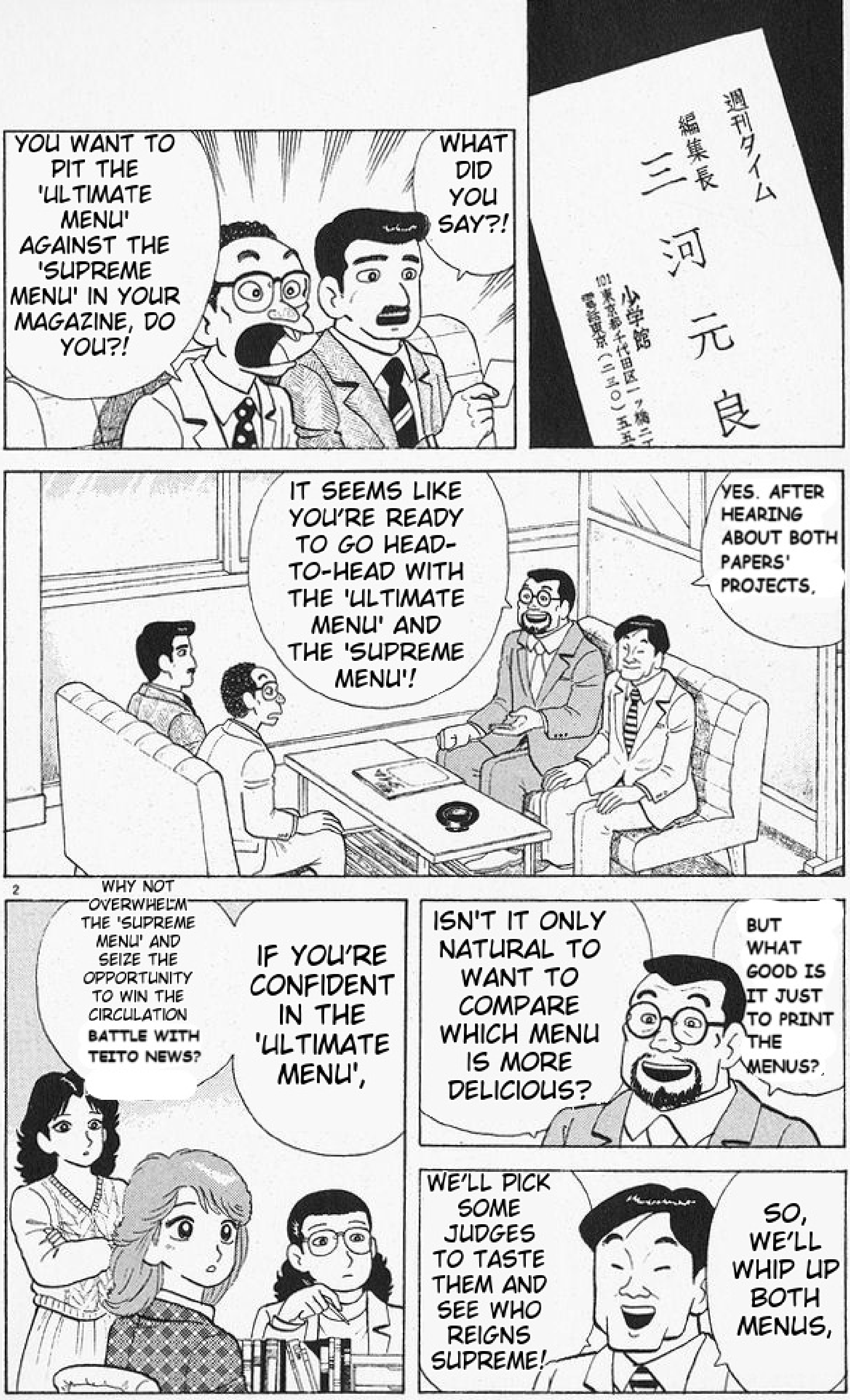

AND I SWEAR, I WILL NEVER BETRAY MY MASTER, EVEN IF IT COSTS ME MY LIFE!
PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME!
I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL...
I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T BETRAY ME, RYOZO.
LISTEN UP, RYOZO, MAKE SURE YOU GET THE MESSAGE TO SHIRO LOUD AND CLEAR.
Y-YES, I UNDERSTAND...
岡星
岡星
WHAT?! YOU WANT ME TO BATTLE WITH AN EGG APPETIZER?!!
YES, RYOZO SAID TO CONVEY THAT...
AN APPETIZER OF EGGS, IS IT...
HMM...
22

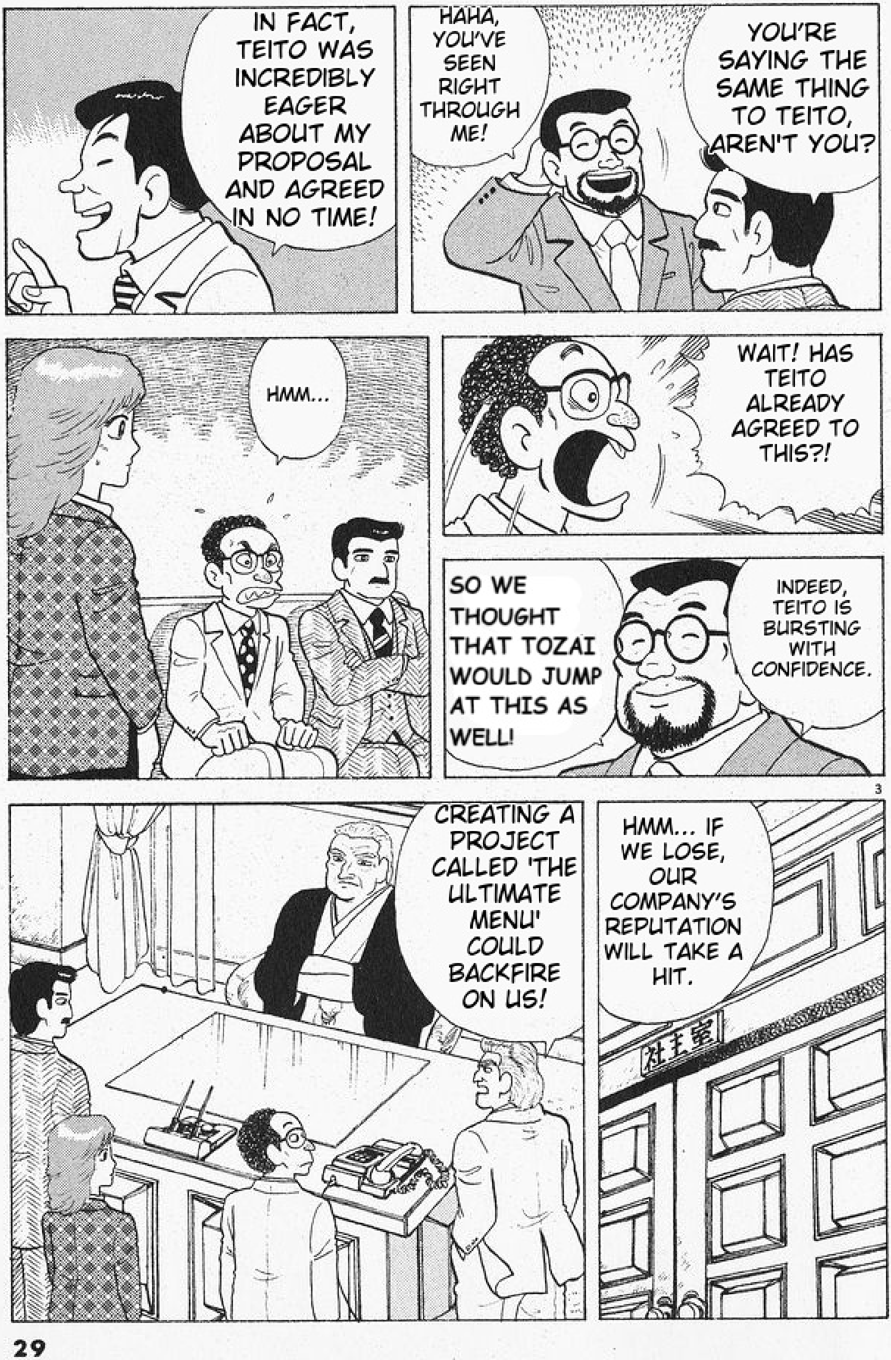

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?
グッ
LET'S DO THIS AND GIVE IT OUR ALL!!
TELL KAIBARA THAT I'M READY TO TAKE ON THAT CHALLENGE!!

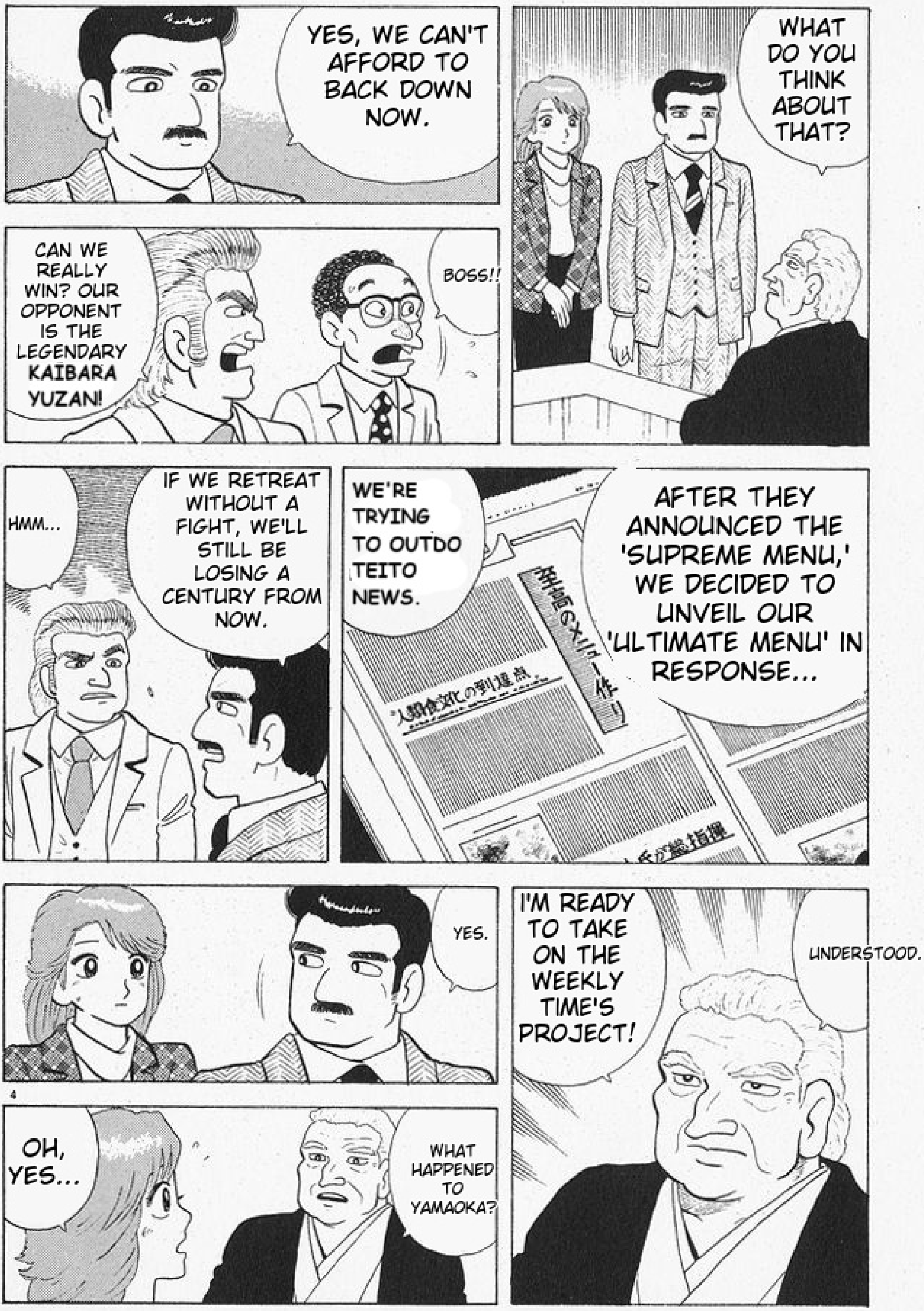
第1話

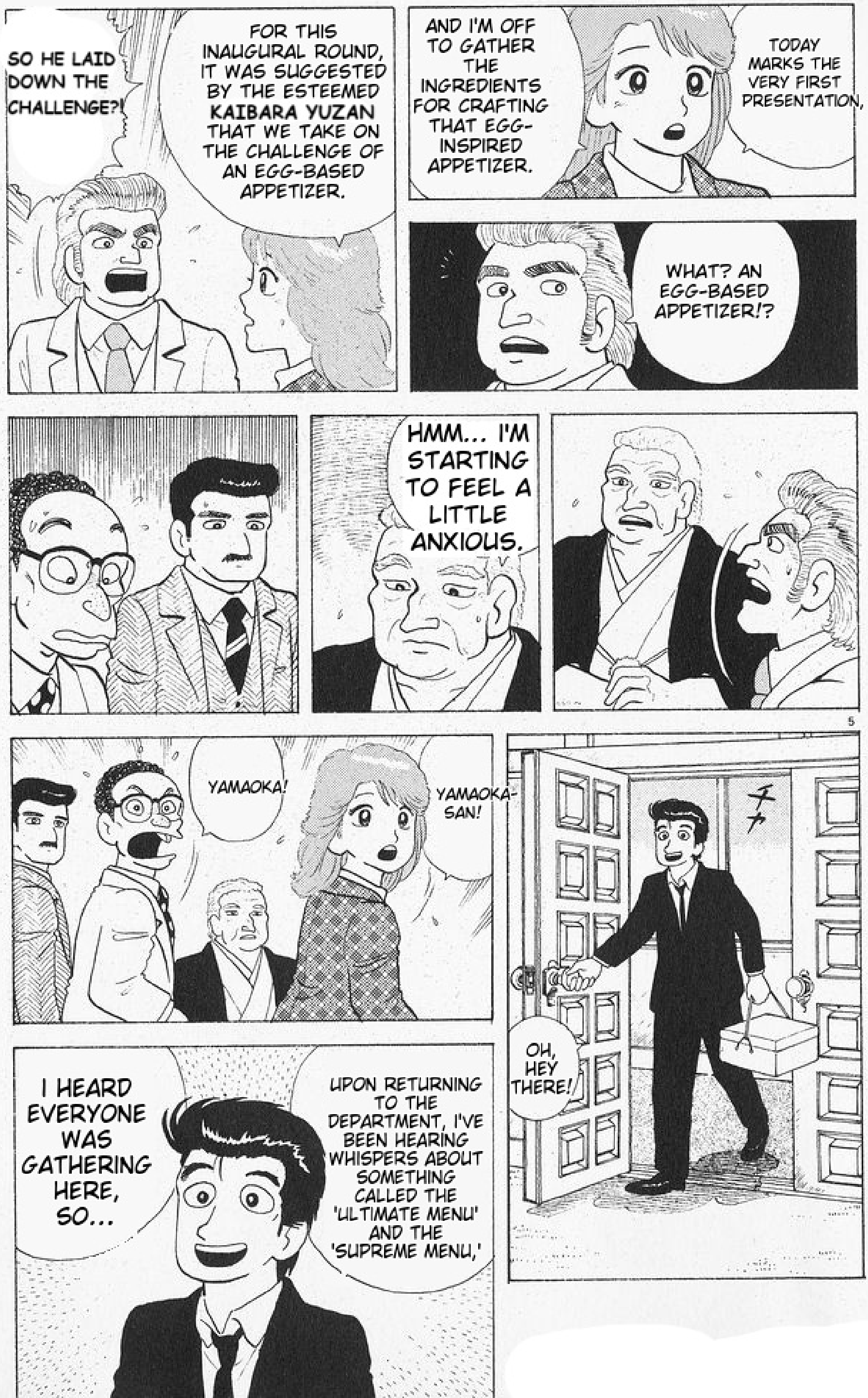
究極VS至高

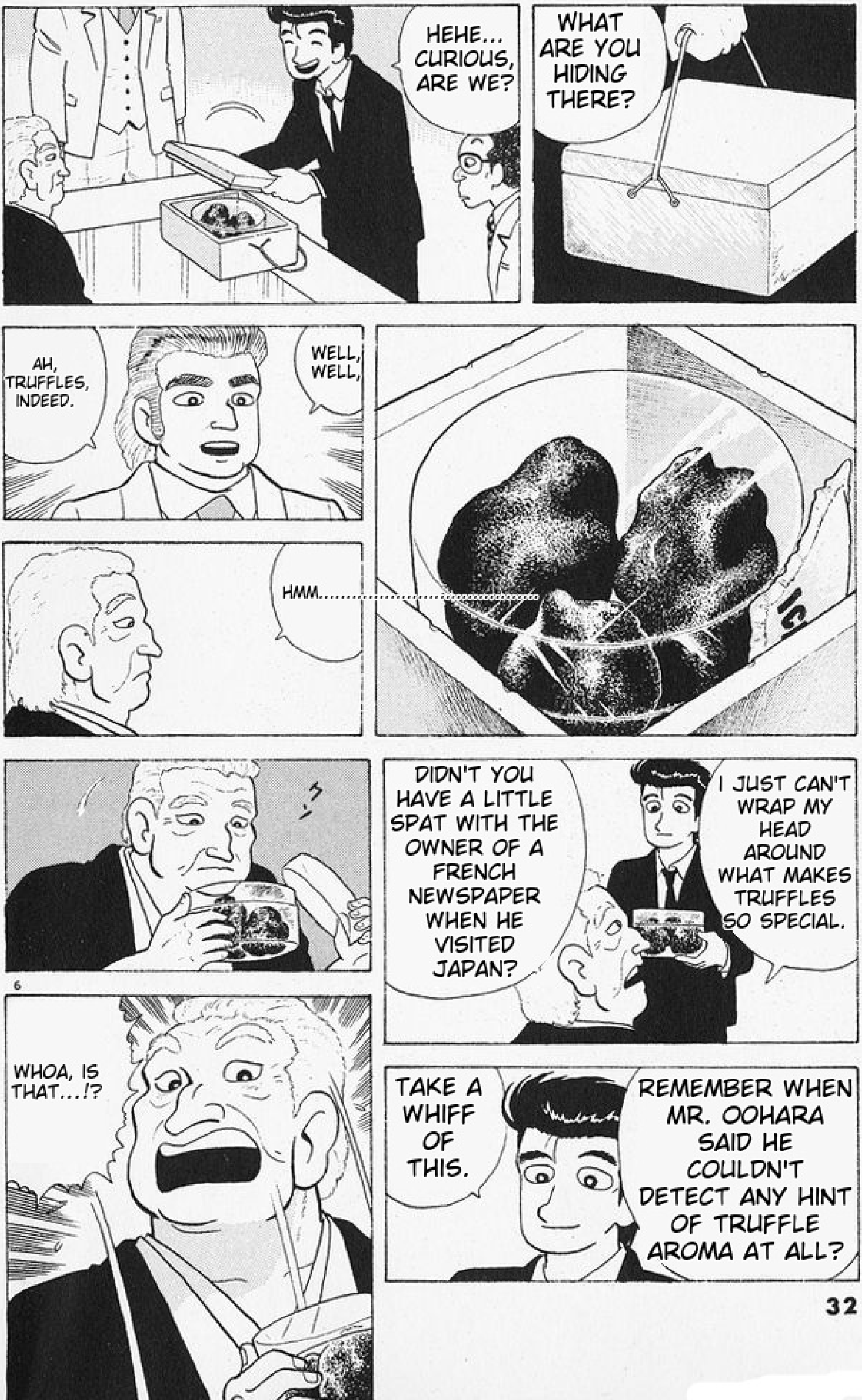
〈中編〉

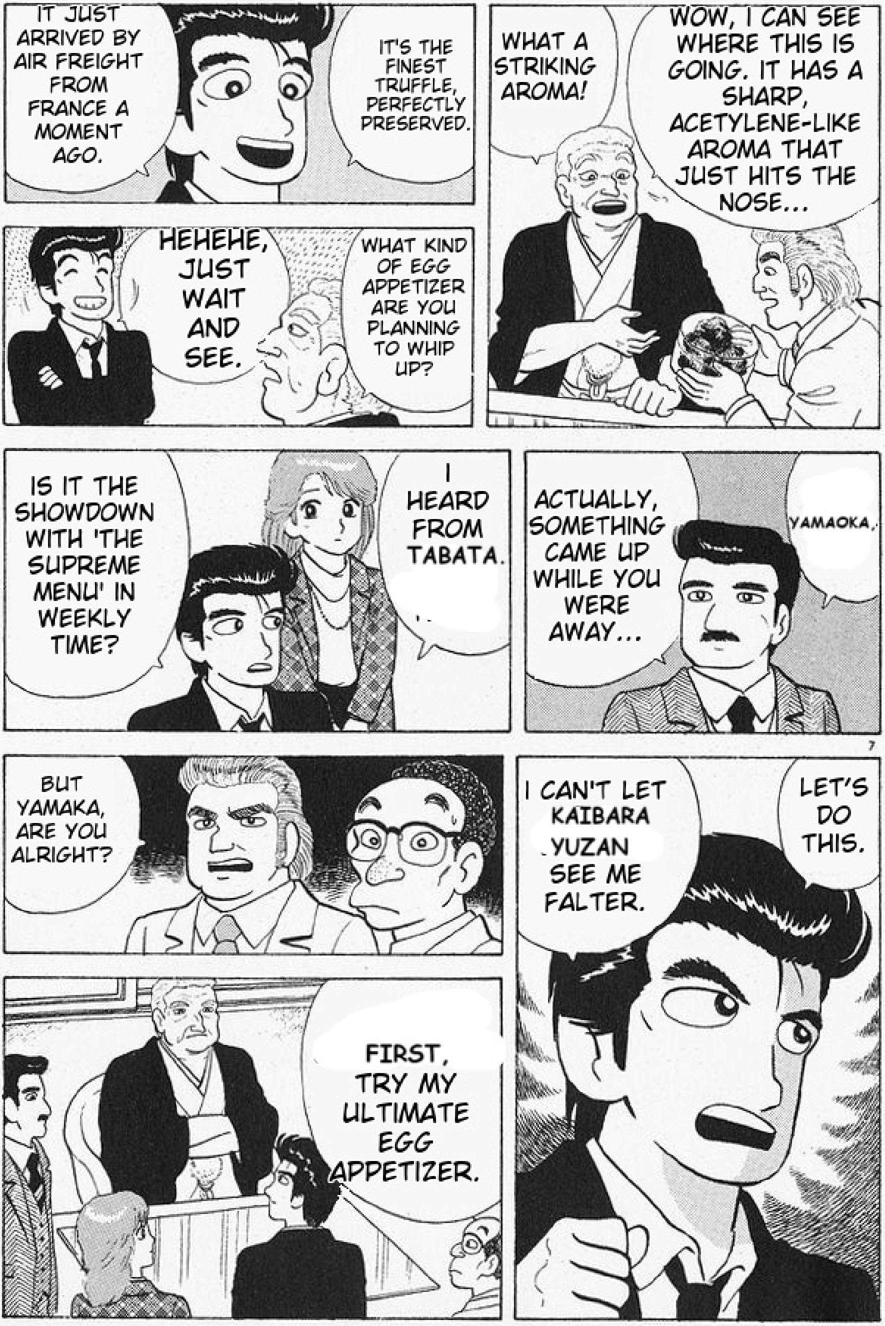

週刊タイム
編集長
三河元良
小学館
101 東京都千代田区一ッ橋二
電話東京（二三〇）五五
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
YOU WANT TO PIT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AGAINST THE 'SUPREME MENU' IN YOUR MAGAZINE, DO YOU?!
YES. AFTER HEARING ABOUT BOTH PAPERS' PROJECTS.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE READY TO GO HEAD-TO-HEAD WITH THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU'!
BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT JUST TO PRINT THE MENUS?
ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL TO WANT TO COMPARE WHICH MENU IS MORE DELICIOUS?
SO, WE'LL WHIP UP BOTH MENUS,
WE'LL PICK SOME JUDGES TO TASTE THEM AND SEE WHO REIGNS SUPREME!
IF YOU'RE CONFIDENT IN THE 'ULTIMATE MENU',
WHY NOT OVERWHELM THE 'SUPREME MENU' AND SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE CIRCULATION BATTLE WITH TEITO NEWS?

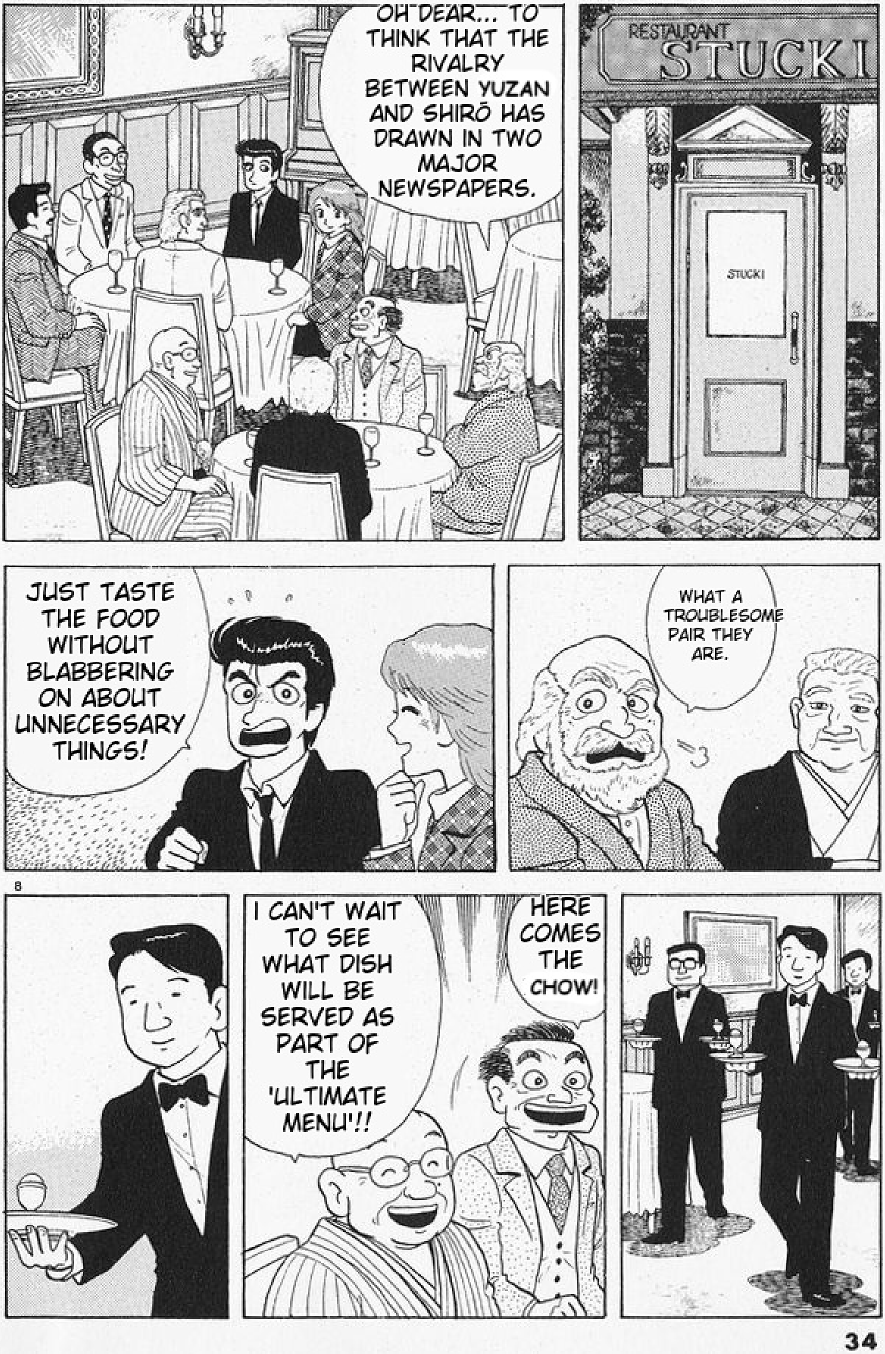

YOU'RE SAYING THE SAME THING TO TEITO, AREN'T YOU?
HAHA, YOU'VE SEEN RIGHT THROUGH ME!
IN FACT, TEITO WAS INCREDIBLY EAGER ABOUT MY PROPOSAL AND AGREED IN NO TIME!
INDEED, TEITO IS BURSTING WITH CONFIDENCE.
SO WE THOUGHT THAT TOZAI WOULD JUMP AT THIS AS WELL!
WAIT! HAS TEITO ALREADY AGREED TO THIS?!
HMM...
社主室
HMM... IF WE LOSE, OUR COMPANY'S REPUTATION WILL TAKE A HIT.
CREATING A PROJECT CALLED 'THE ULTIMATE MENU' COULD BACKFIRE ON US!

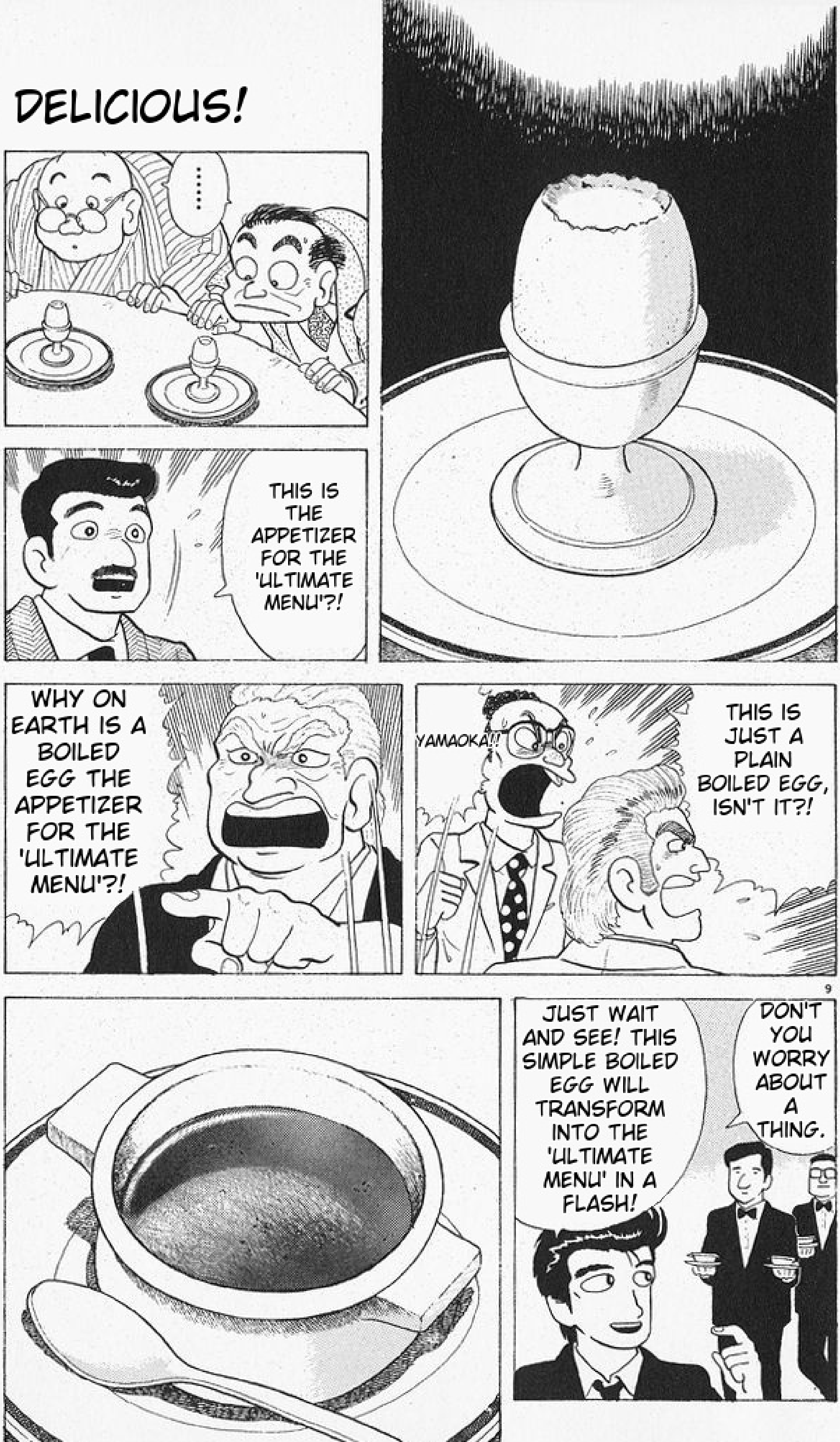

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?
YES, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BACK DOWN NOW.
BOSS!!
CAN WE REALLY WIN? OUR OPPONENT IS THE LEGENDARY **KAIBARA YUZAN**!
AFTER THEY ANNOUNCED THE 'SUPREME MENU,' WE DECIDED TO UNVEIL OUR 'ULTIMATE MENU' IN RESPONSE...
至高のメニュー作り
人類食文化の到達点
氏が総指揮
WE'RE TRYING TO OUTDO TEITO NEWS.
IF WE RETREAT WITHOUT A FIGHT, WE'LL STILL BE LOSING A CENTURY FROM NOW.
HMM...
UNDERSTOOD.
I'M READY TO TAKE ON THE WEEKLY TIME'S PROJECT!
YES.
4
WHAT HAPPENED TO YAMAOKA?
OH, YES...

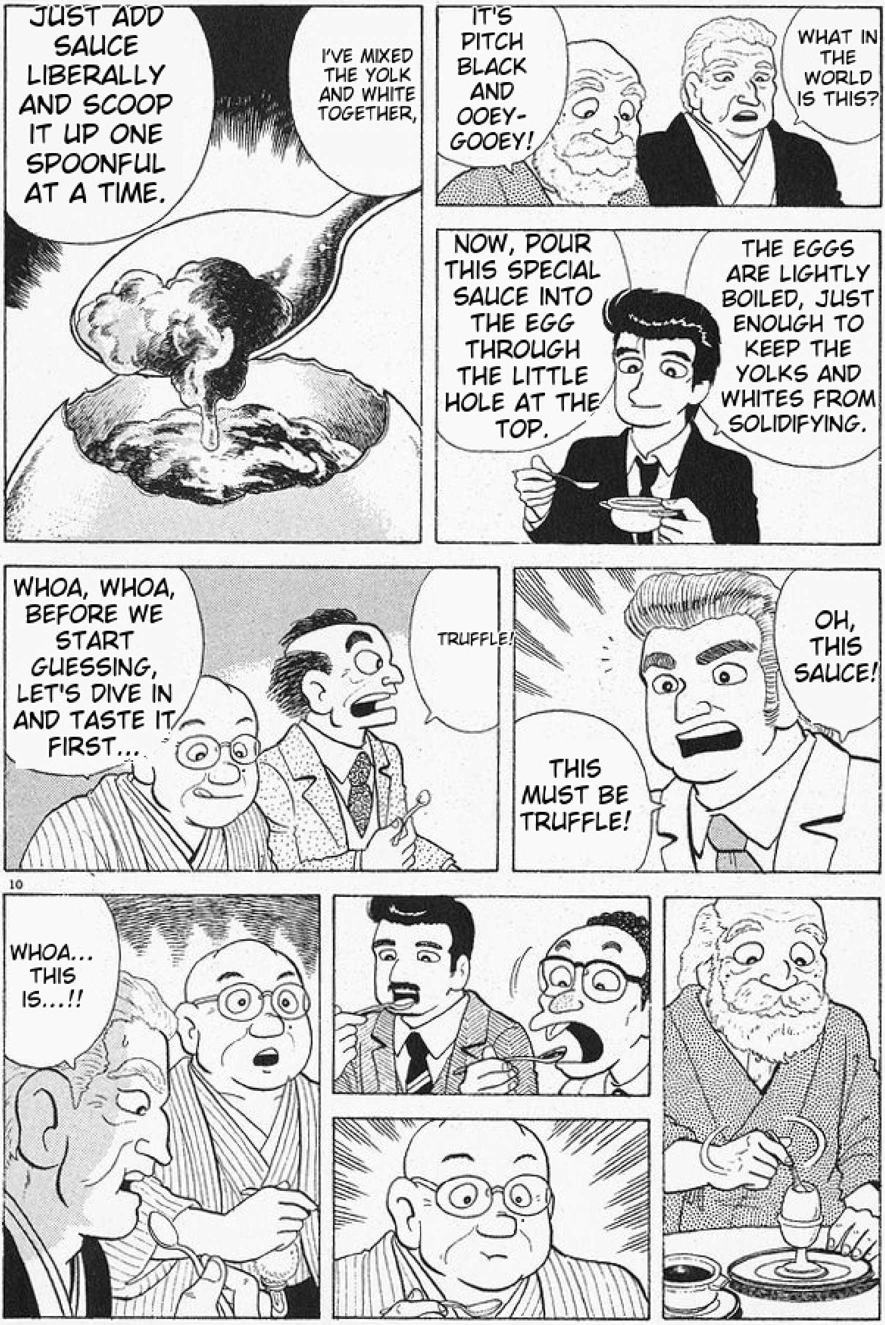

TODAY MARKS THE VERY FIRST PRESENTATION,
AND I'M OFF TO GATHER THE INGREDIENTS FOR CRAFTING THAT EGG-INSPIRED APPETIZER.
WHAT? AN EGG-BASED APPETIZER!?
FOR THIS INAUGURAL ROUND, IT WAS SUGGESTED BY THE ESTEEMED KAIBARA YUZAN THAT WE TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF AN EGG-BASED APPETIZER.
SO HE LAID DOWN THE CHALLENGE?!
HMM... I'M STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE ANXIOUS.
5
チャ
OH, HEY THERE!
YAMAOKA-SAN!
YAMAOKA!
UPON RETURNING TO THE DEPARTMENT, I'VE BEEN HEARING WHISPERS ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' AND THE 'SUPREME MENU,'
I HEARD EVERYONE WAS GATHERING HERE, SO...


WHAT ARE YOU HIDING THERE?
HEHE... CURIOUS, ARE WE?
WELL, WELL,
AH, TRUFFLES, INDEED.
HMM...
I JUST CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND WHAT MAKES TRUFFLES SO SPECIAL.
DIDN'T YOU HAVE A LITTLE SPAT WITH THE OWNER OF A FRENCH NEWSPAPER WHEN HE VISITED JAPAN?
REMEMBER WHEN MR. OOHARA SAID HE COULDN'T DETECT ANY HINT OF TRUFFLE AROMA AT ALL?
TAKE A WHIFF OF THIS.
WHOA, IS THAT...!?

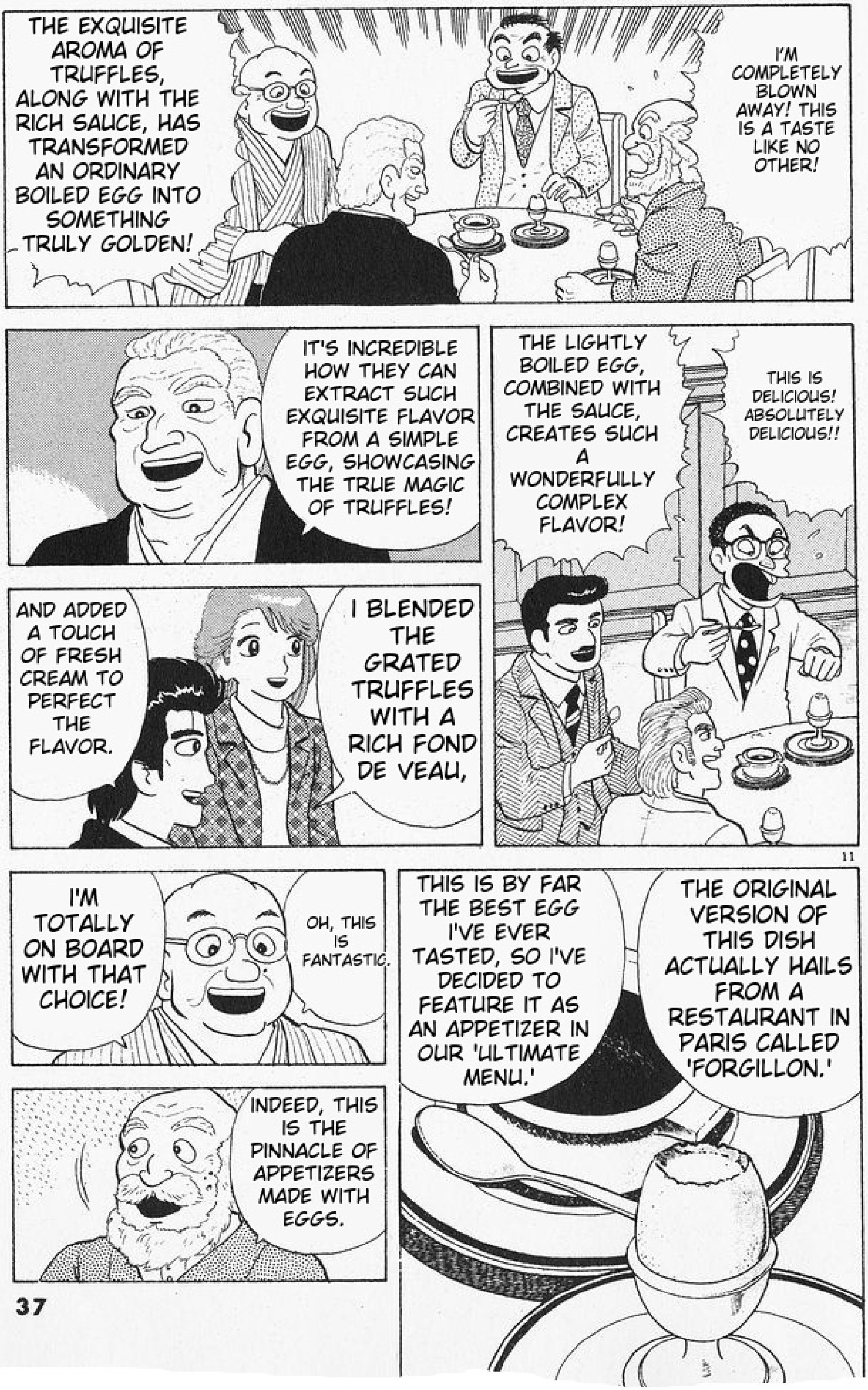

WOW, I CAN SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING. IT HAS A SHARP, ACETYLENE-LIKE AROMA THAT JUST HITS THE NOSE...
WHAT A STRIKING AROMA!
IT'S THE FINEST TRUFFLE, PERFECTLY PRESERVED.
IT JUST ARRIVED BY AIR FREIGHT FROM FRANCE A MOMENT AGO.
WHAT KIND OF EGG APPETIZER ARE YOU PLANNING TO WHIP UP?
HEHEHE, JUST WAIT AND SEE.
YAMAOKA,
ACTUALLY, SOMETHING CAME UP WHILE YOU WERE AWAY...
I HEARD FROM TABATA.
IS IT THE SHOWDOWN WITH 'THE SUPREME MENU' IN WEEKLY TIME?
LET'S DO THIS.
I CAN'T LET KAIBARA YUZAN SEE ME FALTER.
BUT YAMAKA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
FIRST, TRY MY ULTIMATE EGG APPETIZER.

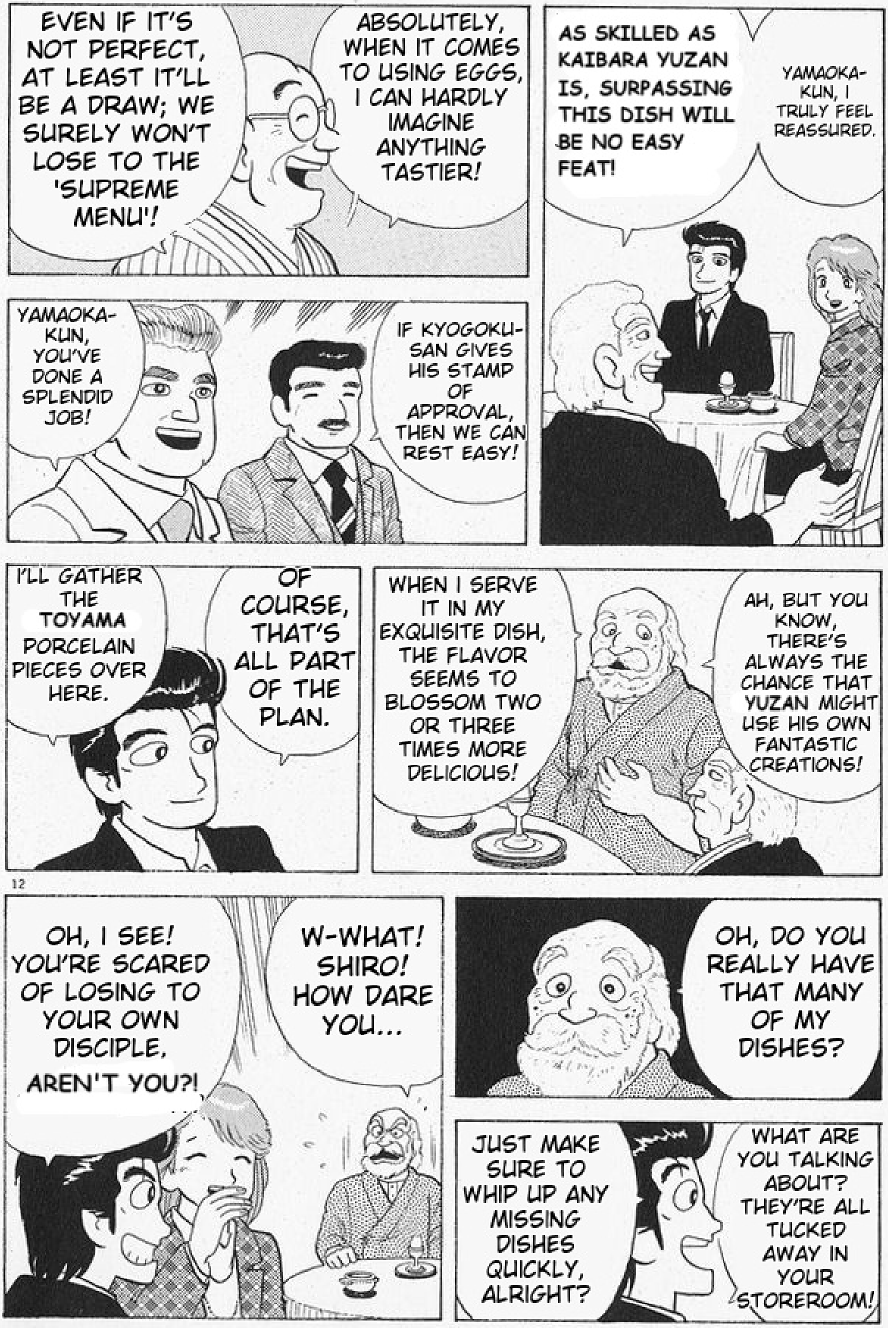

RESTAURANT STUCKI
STUCKI
OH DEAR... TO THINK THAT THE RIVALRY BETWEEN YUZAN AND SHIRŌ HAS DRAWN IN TWO MAJOR NEWSPAPERS.
WHAT A TROUBLESOME PAIR THEY ARE.
JUST TASTE THE FOOD WITHOUT BLABBERING ON ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS!
HERE COMES THE CHOW!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT DISH WILL BE SERVED AS PART OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!!

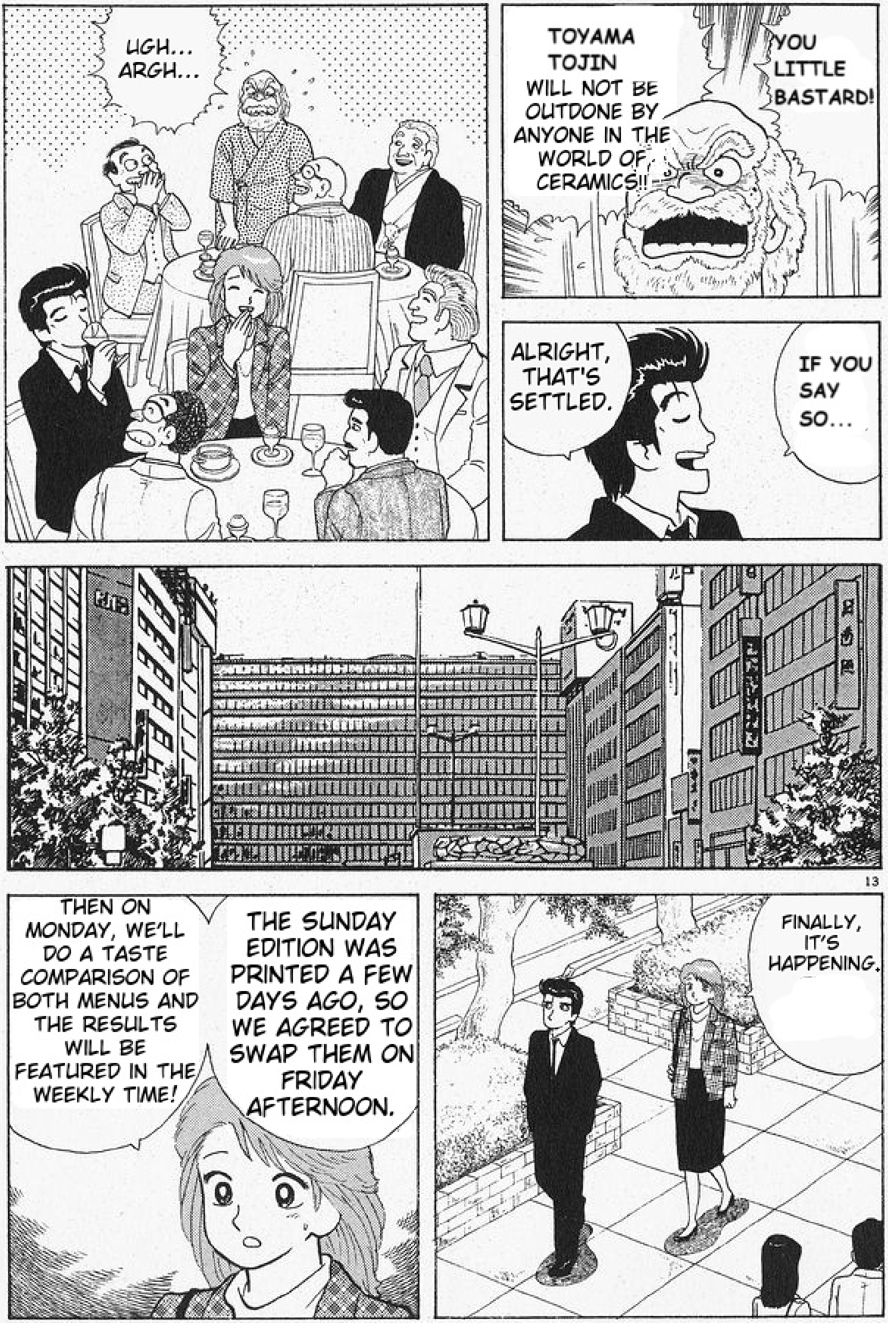

DELICIOUS!
……
THIS IS THE APPETIZER FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!
THIS IS JUST A PLAIN BOILED EGG, ISN'T IT?!
YAMAOKA!!
WHY ON EARTH IS A BOILED EGG THE APPETIZER FOR THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'?!
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT A THING.
JUST WAIT AND SEE! THIS SIMPLE BOILED EGG WILL TRANSFORM INTO THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' IN A FLASH!

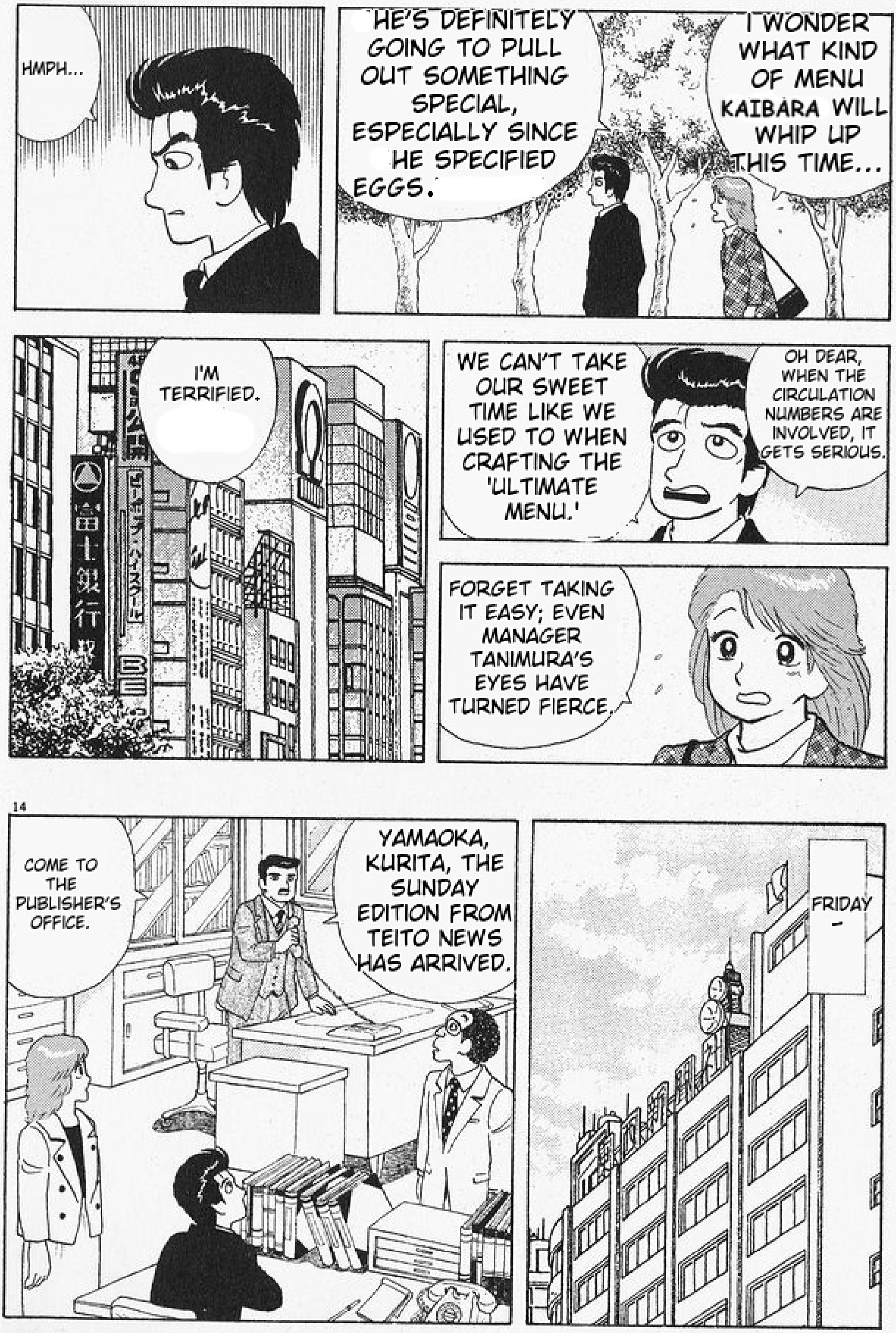

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS?
IT'S PITCH BLACK AND OOEY-GOOEY!
THE EGGS ARE LIGHTLY BOILED, JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP THE YOLKS AND WHITES FROM SOLIDIFYING.
NOW, POUR THIS SPECIAL SAUCE INTO THE EGG THROUGH THE LITTLE HOLE AT THE TOP.
I'VE MIXED THE YOLK AND WHITE TOGETHER,
JUST ADD SAUCE LIBERALLY AND SCOOP IT UP ONE SPOONFUL AT A TIME.
OH, THIS SAUCE!
THIS MUST BE TRUFFLE!
TRUFFLE!
WHOA, WHOA, BEFORE WE START GUESSING, LET'S DIVE IN AND TASTE IT FIRST...
WHOA... THIS IS...!!

DELICIOUS!

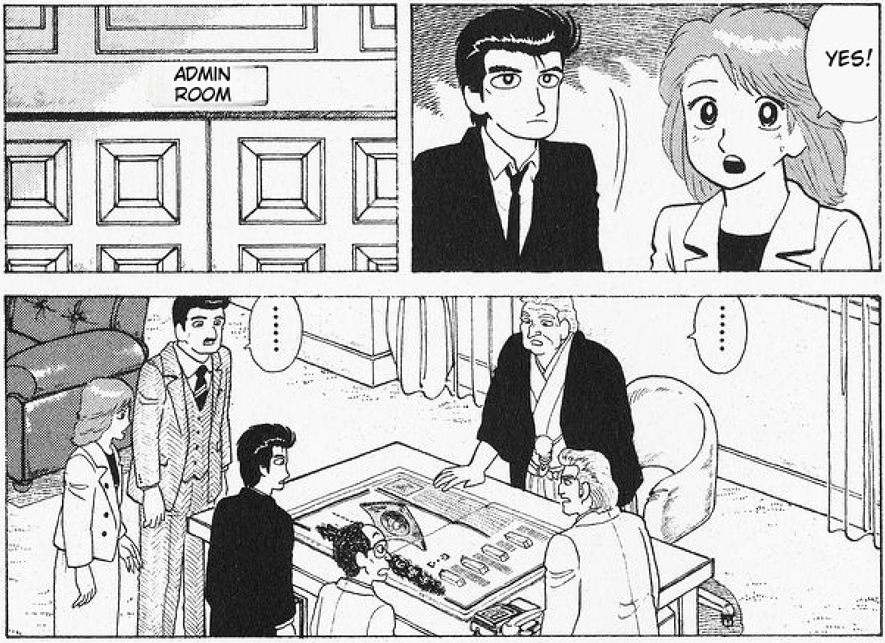

I'M COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY! THIS IS A TASTE LIKE NO OTHER!
THE EXQUISITE AROMA OF TRUFFLES, ALONG WITH THE RICH SAUCE, HAS TRANSFORMED AN ORDINARY BOILED EGG INTO SOMETHING TRULY GOLDEN!
THIS IS DELICIOUS! ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!!
THE LIGHTLY BOILED EGG, COMBINED WITH THE SAUCE, CREATES SUCH A WONDERFULLY COMPLEX FLAVOR!
IT'S INCREDIBLE HOW THEY CAN EXTRACT SUCH EXQUISITE FLAVOR FROM A SIMPLE EGG, SHOWCASING THE TRUE MAGIC OF TRUFFLES!
I BLENDED THE GRATED TRUFFLES WITH A RICH FOND DE VEAU,
AND ADDED A TOUCH OF FRESH CREAM TO PERFECT THE FLAVOR.
11
THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THIS DISH ACTUALLY HAILS FROM A RESTAURANT IN PARIS CALLED 'FORGILLON.'
THIS IS BY FAR THE BEST EGG I'VE EVER TASTED, SO I'VE DECIDED TO FEATURE IT AS AN APPETIZER IN OUR 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
OH, THIS IS FANTASTIC.
I'M TOTALLY ON BOARD WITH THAT CHOICE!
INDEED, THIS IS THE PINNACLE OF APPETIZERS MADE WITH EGGS.

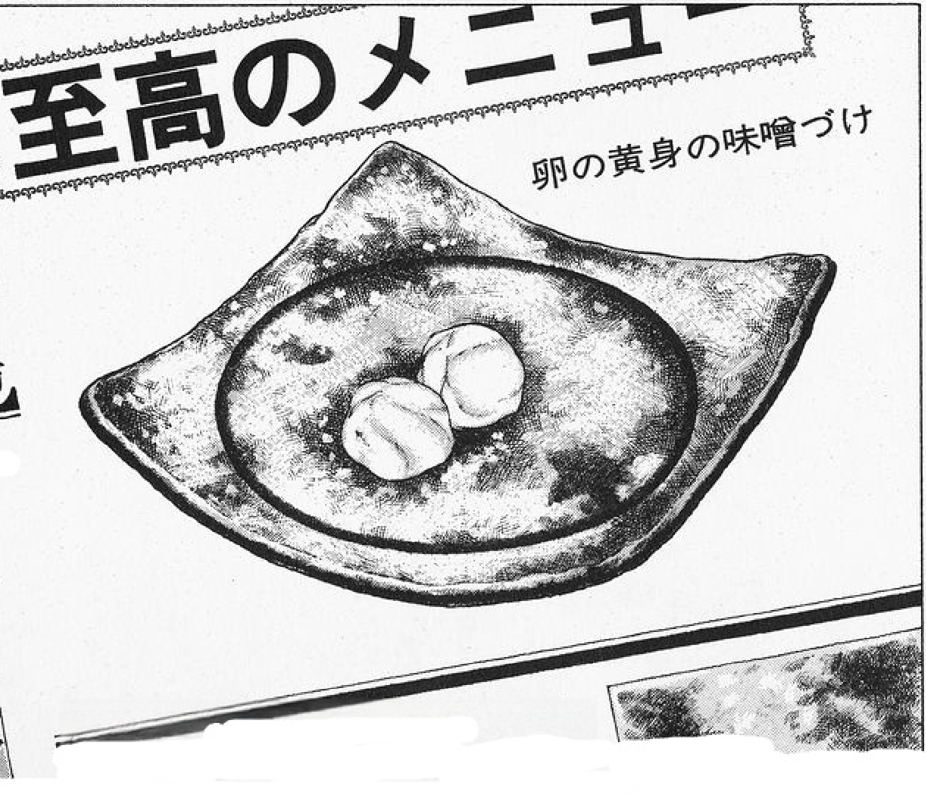

AS SKILLED AS KAIBARA YUZAN IS, SURPASSING THIS DISH WILL BE NO EASY FEAT!
YAMAOKA-KUN, I TRULY FEEL REASSURED.
ABSOLUTELY, WHEN IT COMES TO USING EGGS, I CAN HARDLY IMAGINE ANYTHING TASTIER!
EVEN IF IT'S NOT PERFECT, AT LEAST IT'LL BE A DRAW; WE SURELY WON'T LOSE TO THE 'SUPREME MENU'!
IF KYOGOKU-SAN GIVES HIS STAMP OF APPROVAL, THEN WE CAN REST EASY!
YAMAOKA-KUN, YOU'VE DONE A SPLENDID JOB!
AH, BUT YOU KNOW, THERE'S ALWAYS THE CHANCE THAT YUZAN MIGHT USE HIS OWN FANTASTIC CREATIONS!
WHEN I SERVE IT IN MY EXQUISITE DISH, THE FLAVOR SEEMS TO BLOSSOM TWO OR THREE TIMES MORE DELICIOUS!
OF COURSE, THAT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN.
I'LL GATHER THE TOYAMA PORCELAIN PIECES OVER HERE.
OH, DO YOU REALLY HAVE THAT MANY OF MY DISHES?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THEY'RE ALL TUCKED AWAY IN YOUR STOREROOM!
JUST MAKE SURE TO WHIP UP ANY MISSING DISHES QUICKLY, ALRIGHT?
W-WHAT! SHIRO! HOW DARE YOU...
OH, I SEE! YOU'RE SCARED OF LOSING TO YOUR OWN DISCIPLE, AREN'T YOU?!


UGH... ARGH...
YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
TOYAMA TOJIN WILL NOT BE OUTDONE BY ANYONE IN THE WORLD OF CERAMICS!!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S SETTLED.
IF YOU SAY SO...
THE SUNDAY EDITION WAS PRINTED A FEW DAYS AGO, SO WE AGREED TO SWAP THEM ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON.
THEN ON MONDAY, WE'LL DO A TASTE COMPARISON OF BOTH MENUS AND THE RESULTS WILL BE FEATURED IN THE WEEKLY TIME!
FINALLY, IT'S HAPPENING.

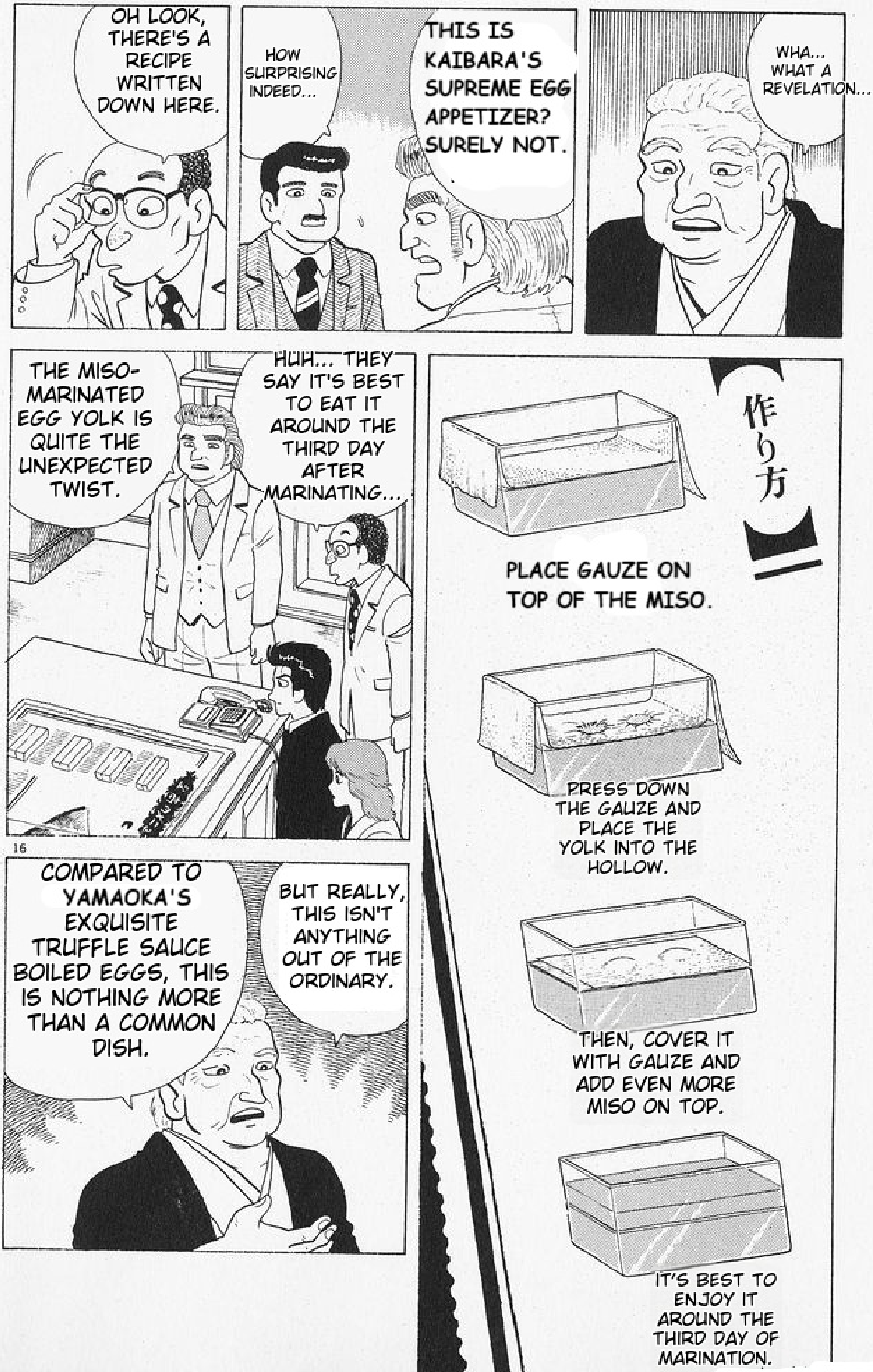

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF MENU KAIBARA WILL WHIP UP THIS TIME...
HE'S DEFINITELY GOING TO PULL OUT SOMETHING SPECIAL, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE SPECIFIED EGGS.
HMPH...
OH DEAR, WHEN THE CIRCULATION NUMBERS ARE INVOLVED, IT GETS SERIOUS.
WE CAN'T TAKE OUR SWEET TIME LIKE WE USED TO WHEN CRAFTING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU.'
FORGET TAKING IT EASY; EVEN MANAGER TANIMURA'S EYES HAVE TURNED FIERCE.
I'M TERRIFIED.
富士銀行
14
FRIDAY -
YAMAOKA, KURITA, THE SUNDAY EDITION FROM TEITO NEWS HAS ARRIVED.
COME TO THE PUBLISHER'S OFFICE.

DELICIOUS!

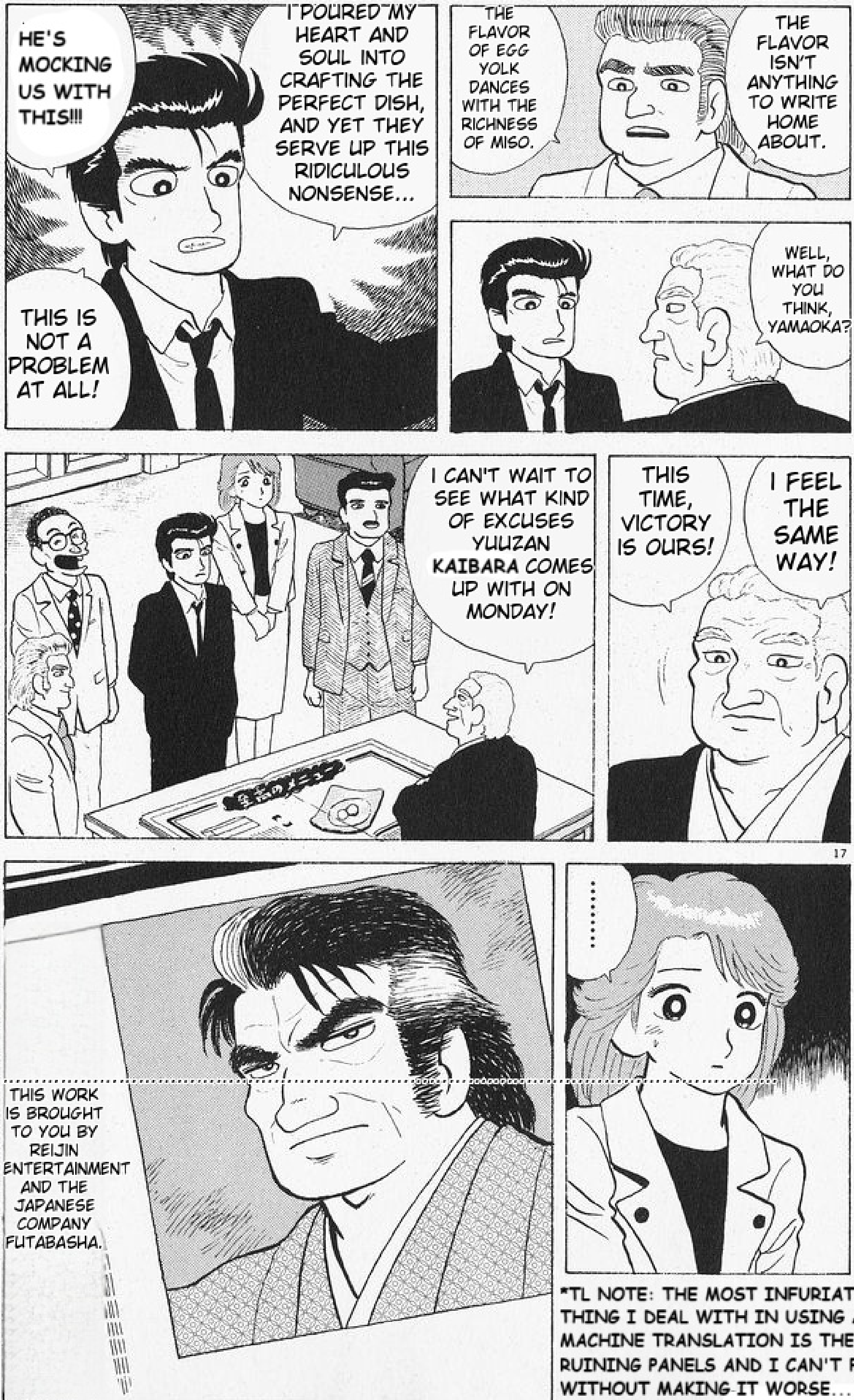

YES!
ADMIN ROOM
......
......


至高のメニュー
卵の黄身の味噌づけ
【作り方】

CAN WE KEEP GOING? ... OH, THIS FEELS SO GOOD-

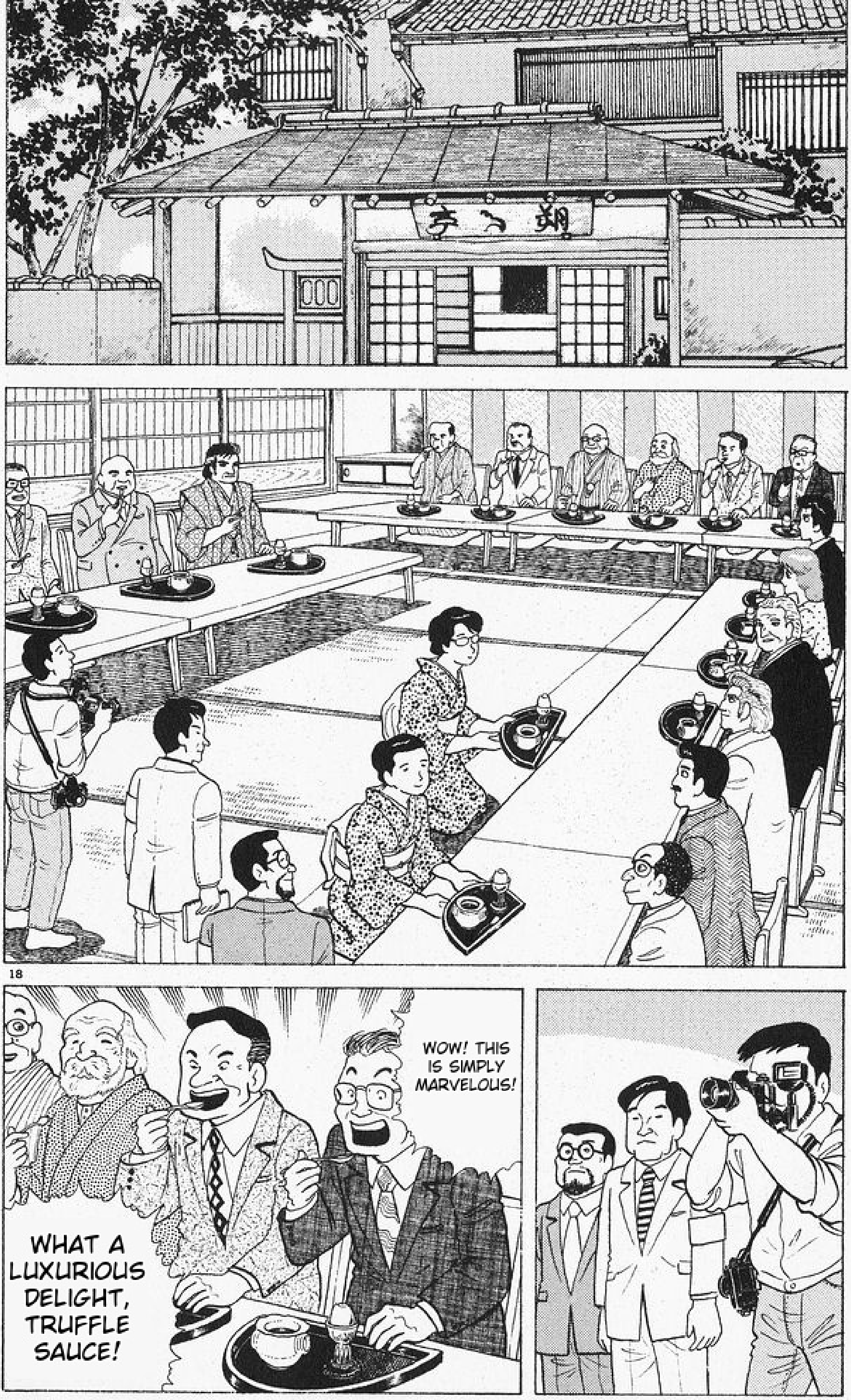

WHA... WHAT A REVELATION...
THIS IS KAIBARA'S SUPREME EGG APPETIZER? SURELY NOT.
HOW SURPRISING INDEED...
OH LOOK, THERE'S A RECIPE WRITTEN DOWN HERE.
作り方
二
PLACE GAUZE ON TOP OF THE MISO.
PRESS DOWN THE GAUZE AND PLACE THE YOLK INTO THE HOLLOW.
THEN, COVER IT WITH GAUZE AND ADD EVEN MORE MISO ON TOP.
IT'S BEST TO ENJOY IT AROUND THE THIRD DAY OF MARINATION.
HUH... THEY SAY IT'S BEST TO EAT IT AROUND THE THIRD DAY AFTER MARINATING...
THE MISO-MARINATED EGG YOLK IS QUITE THE UNEXPECTED TWIST.
BUT REALLY, THIS ISN'T ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
COMPARED TO YAMAOKA'S EXQUISITE TRUFFLE SAUCE BOILED EGGS, THIS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A COMMON DISH.

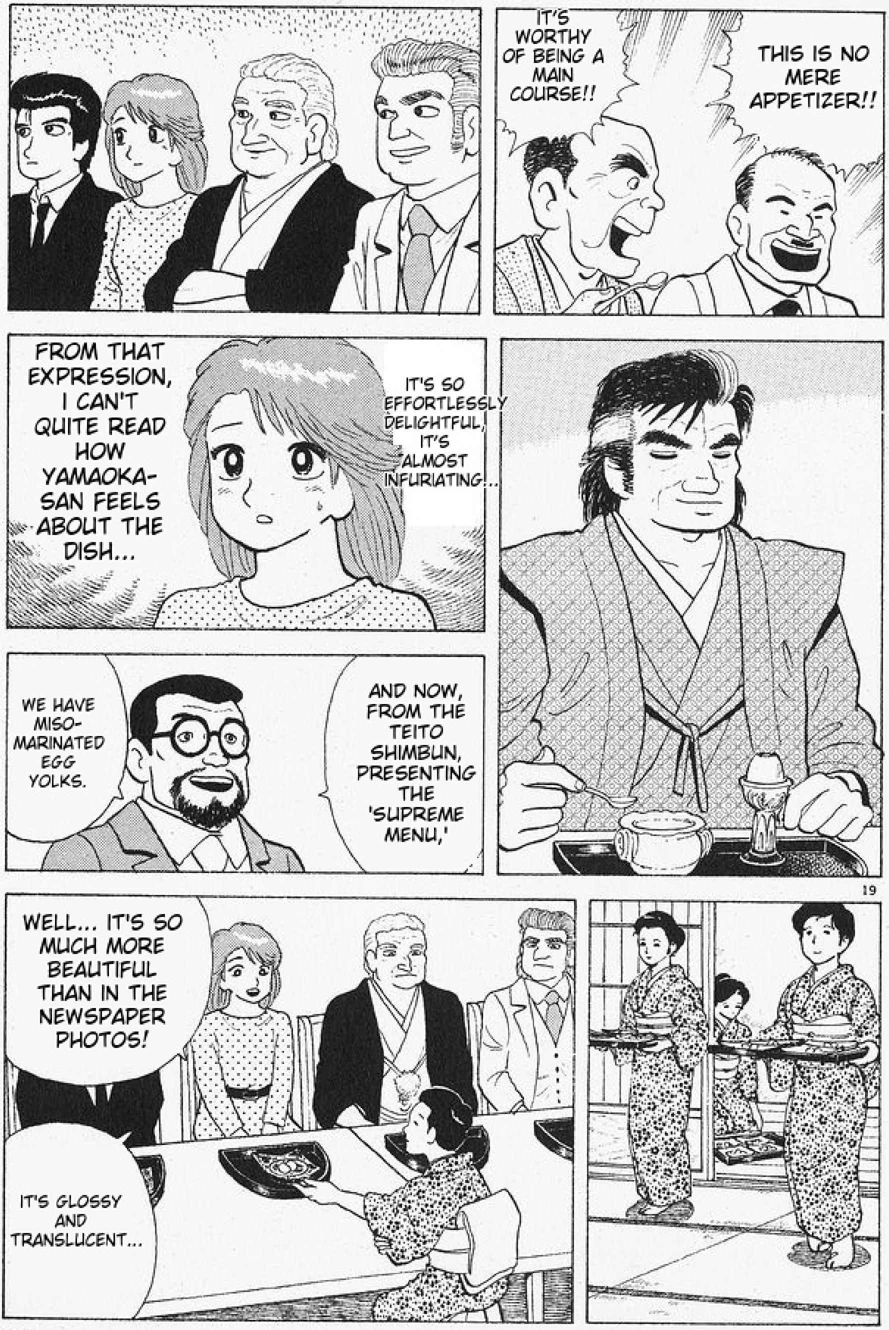
DELICIOUS!

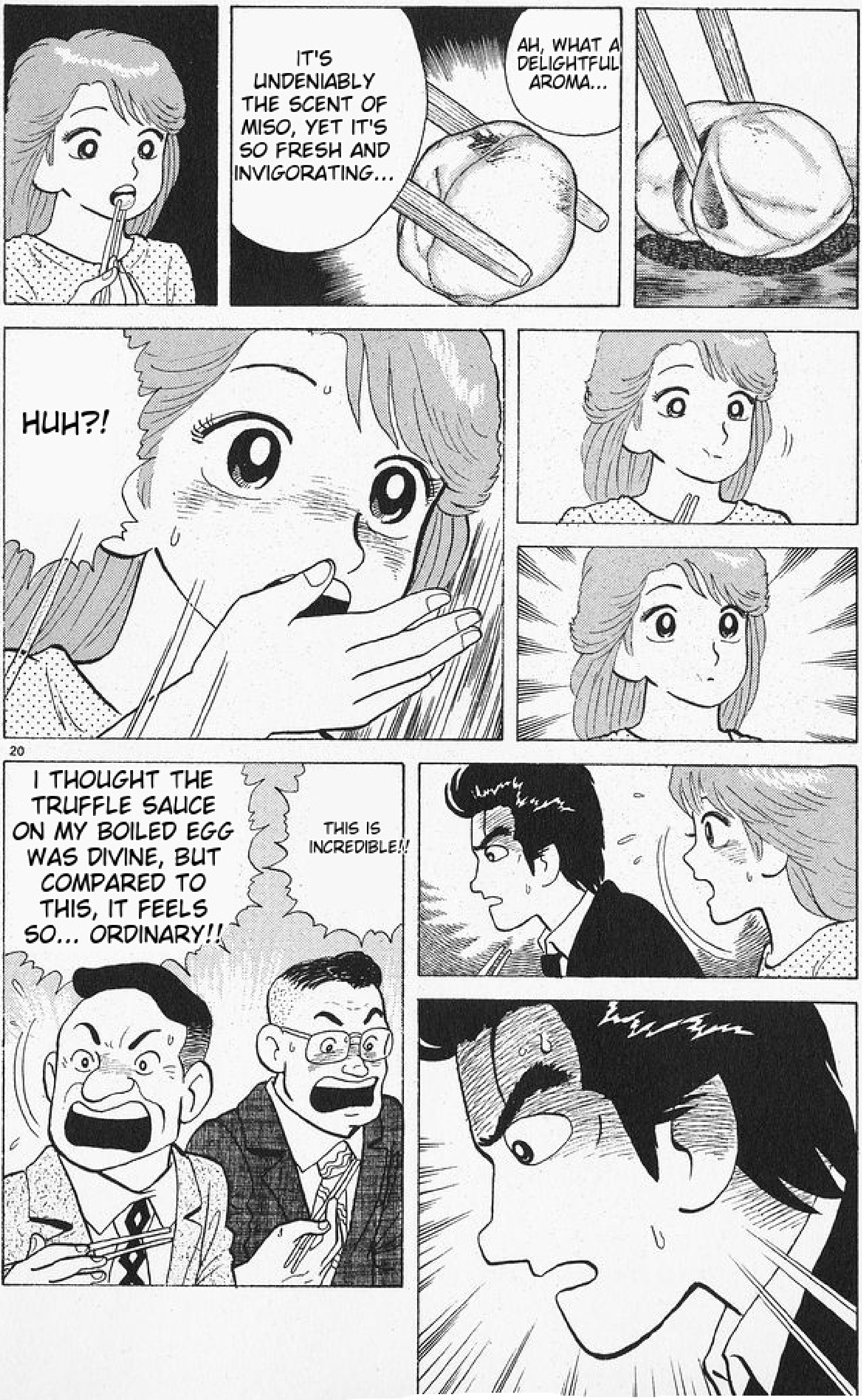

THE FLAVOR ISN'T ANYTHING TO WRITE HOME ABOUT.
THE FLAVOR OF EGG YOLK DANCES WITH THE RICHNESS OF MISO.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK, YAMAOKA?
I POURED MY HEART AND SOUL INTO CRAFTING THE PERFECT DISH, AND YET THEY SERVE UP THIS RIDICULOUS NONSENSE...
HE'S MOCKING US WITH THIS!!!
THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM AT ALL!
I FEEL THE SAME WAY!
THIS TIME, VICTORY IS OURS!
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT KIND OF EXCUSES YUUZAN KAIBARA COMES UP WITH ON MONDAY!
……

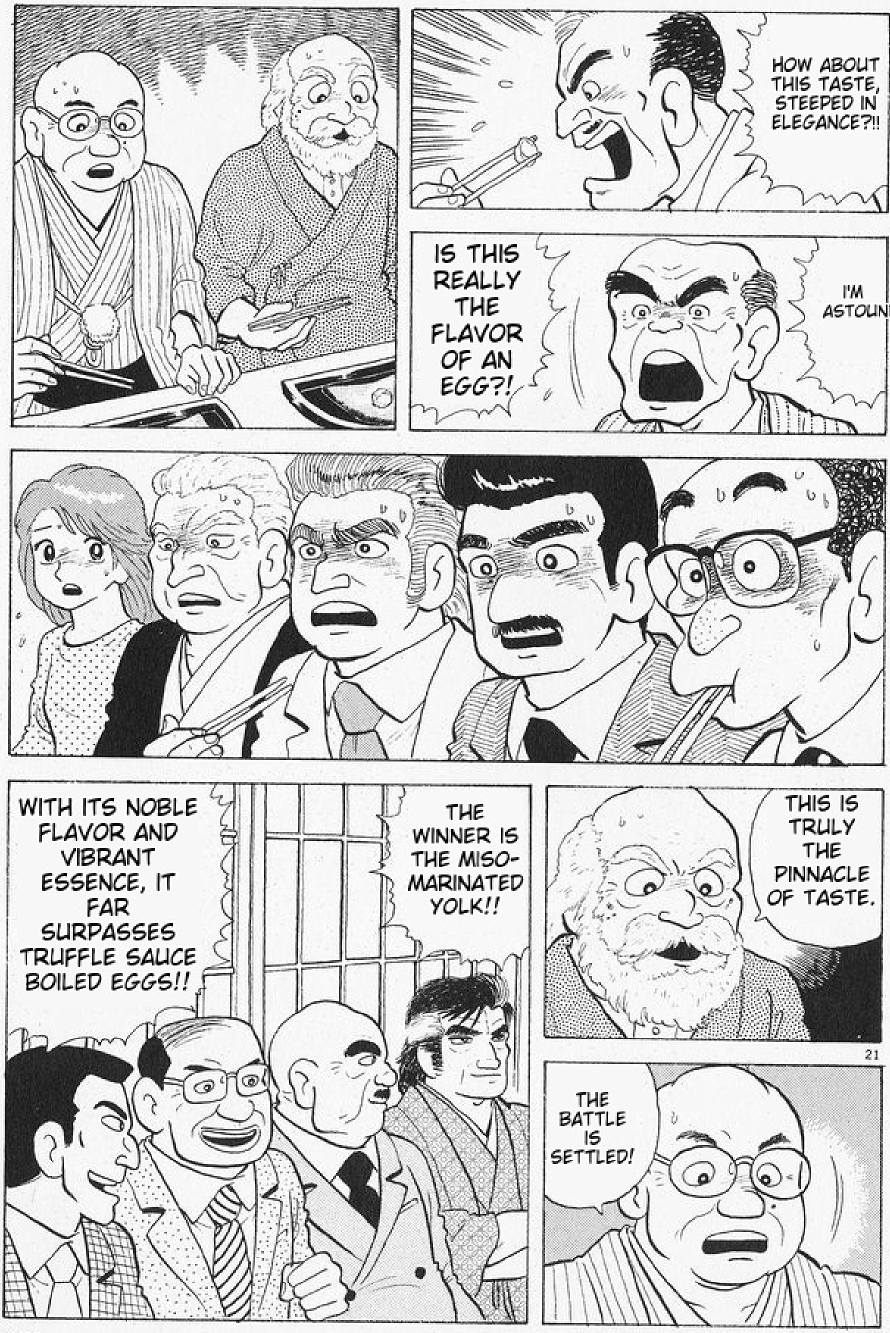
THIS WORK IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY REIJIN ENTERTAINMENT AND THE JAPANESE COMPANY FUTABASHA.

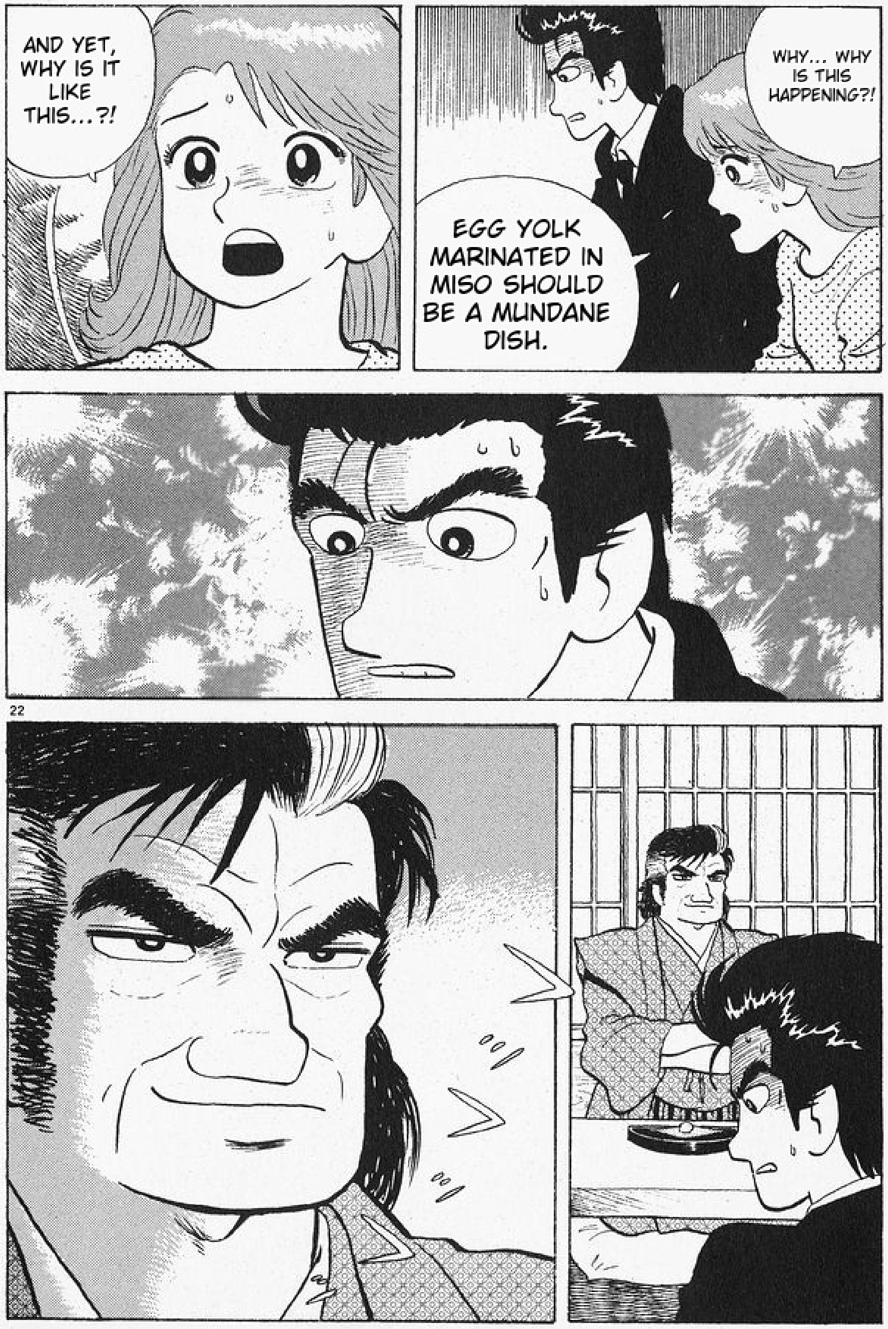
*TL NOTE: THE MOST INFURIATING THING I DEAL WITH IN USING A MACHINE TRANSLATION IS THE ELIPSES RUINING PANELS AND I CAN'T FIX THEM WITHOUT MAKING IT WORSE...


WOW! THIS IS SIMPLY MARVELOUS!
WHAT A LUXURIOUS DELIGHT, TRUFFLE SAUCE!


THIS IS NO MERE APPETIZER!!
IT'S WORTHY OF BEING A MAIN COURSE!!
IT'S SO EFFORTLESSLY DELIGHTFUL, IT'S ALMOST INFURIATING...
FROM THAT EXPRESSION, I CAN'T QUITE READ HOW YAMAOKA-SAN FEELS ABOUT THE DISH...
AND NOW, FROM THE TEITO SHIMBUN, PRESENTING THE 'SUPREME MENU,'
WE HAVE MISO-MARINATED EGG YOLKS.
19
WELL... IT'S SO MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN IN THE NEWSPAPER PHOTOS!
IT'S GLOSSY AND TRANSLUCENT...


AH, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AROMA...
IT'S UNDENIABLY THE SCENT OF MISO, YET IT'S SO FRESH AND INVIGORATING...
HUH?!
THIS IS INCREDIBLE!!
I THOUGHT THE TRUFFLE SAUCE ON MY BOILED EGG WAS DIVINE, BUT COMPARED TO THIS, IT FEELS SO... ORDINARY!!

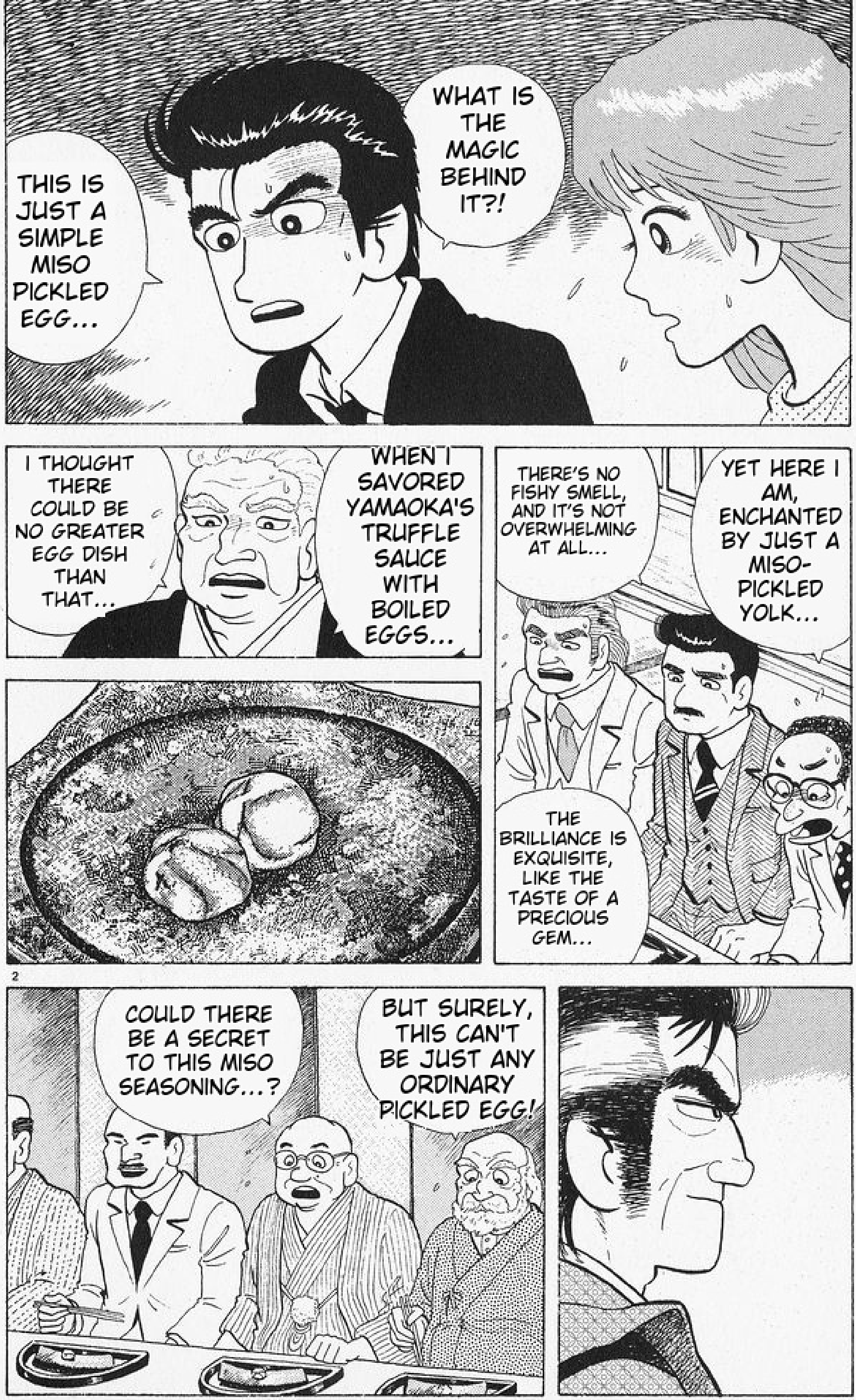

HOW ABOUT THIS TASTE, STEEPED IN ELEGANCE?!!
I'M ASTOUNDED!!
IS THIS REALLY THE FLAVOR OF AN EGG?!
THIS IS TRULY THE PINNACLE OF TASTE.
21
THE BATTLE IS SETTLED!
THE WINNER IS THE MISO-MARINATED YOLK!!
WITH ITS NOBLE FLAVOR AND VIBRANT ESSENCE, IT FAR SURPASSES TRUFFLE SAUCE BOILED EGGS!!


WHY... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!
EGG YOLK MARINATED IN MISO SHOULD BE A MUNDANE DISH.
AND YET, WHY IS IT LIKE THIS...?!

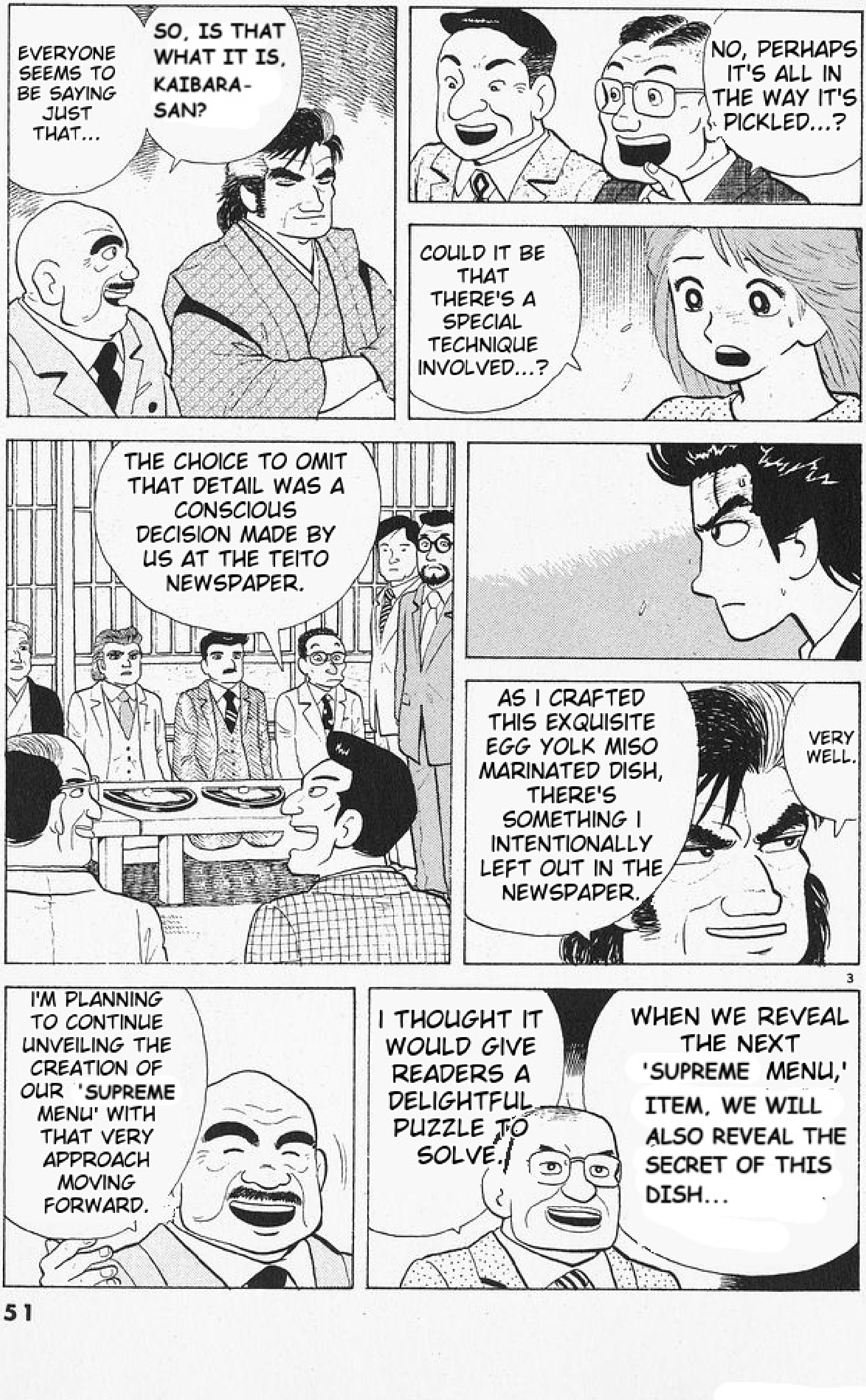
第1話

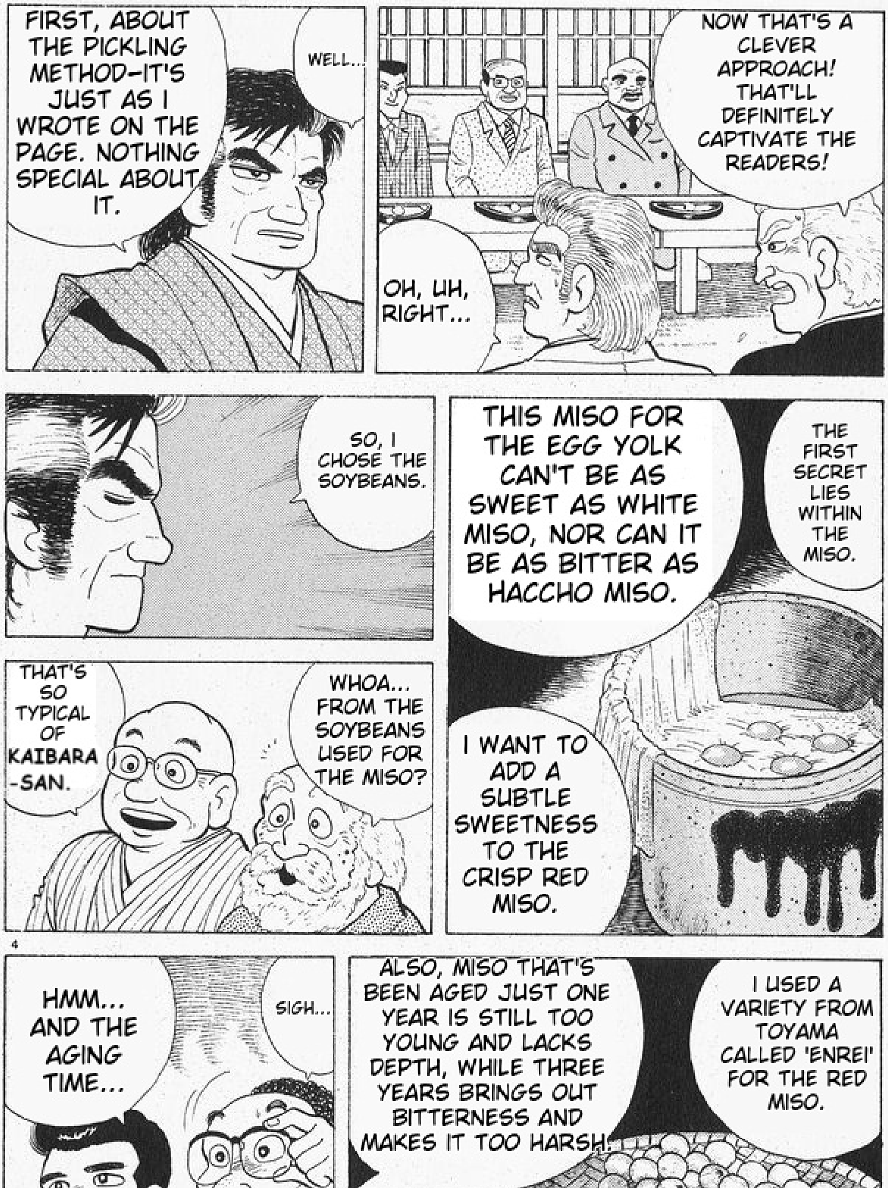
究極VS至高

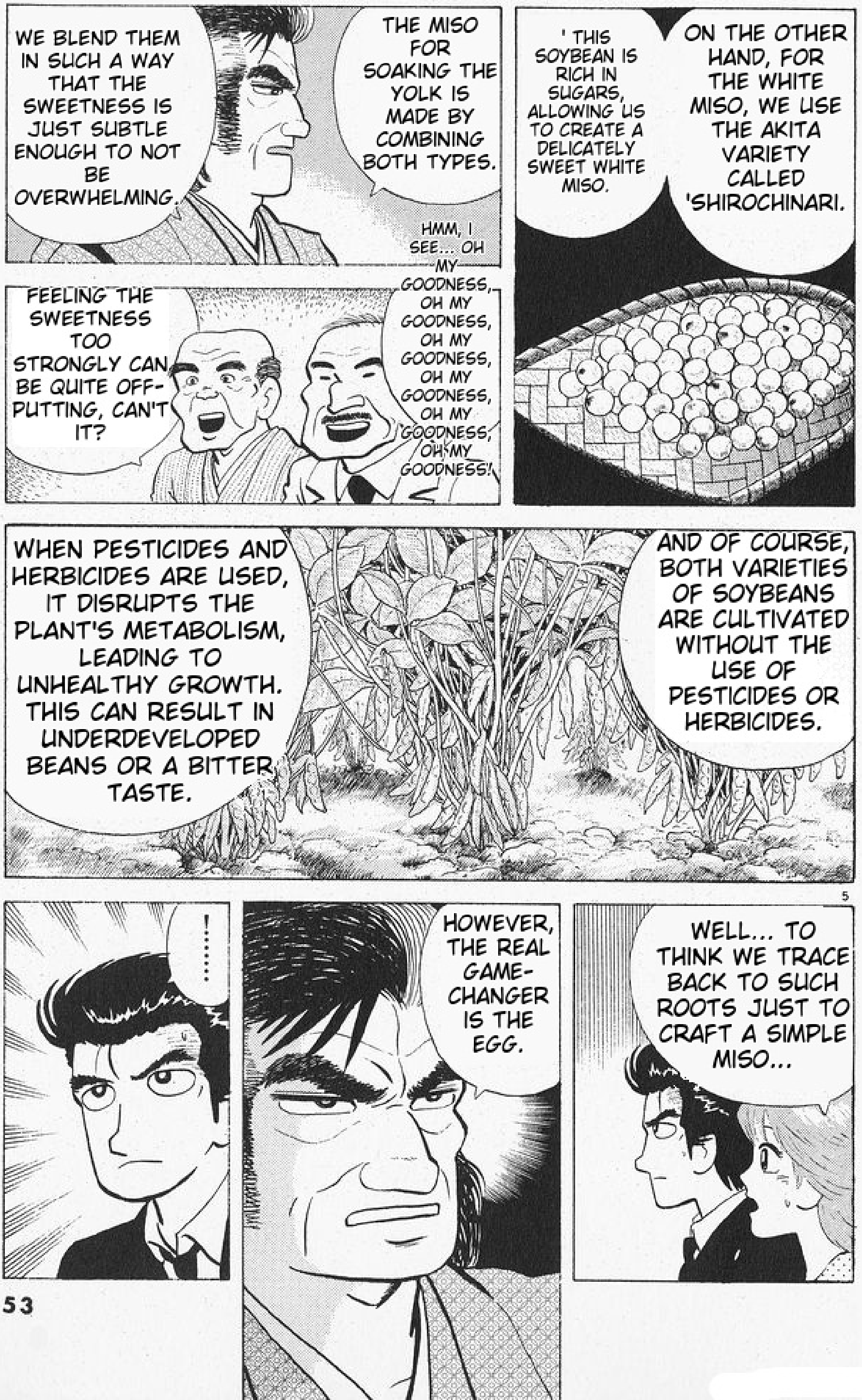
〈後編〉

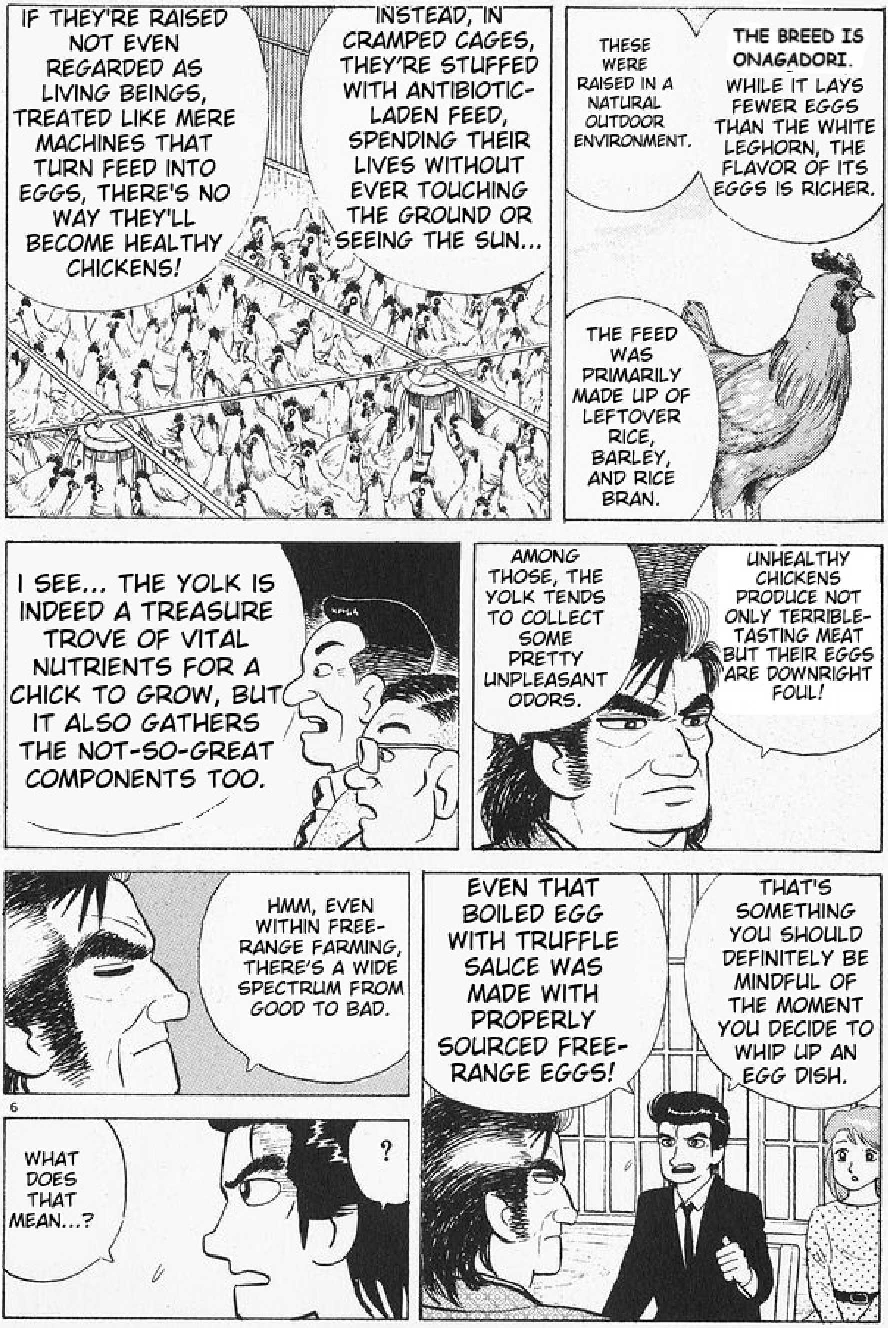

WHAT IS THE MAGIC BEHIND IT?!
THIS IS JUST A SIMPLE MISO PICKLED EGG…
YET HERE I AM, ENCHANTED BY JUST A MISO-PICKLED YOLK…
THERE'S NO FISHY SMELL, AND IT'S NOT OVERWHELMING AT ALL…
THE BRILLIANCE IS EXQUISITE, LIKE THE TASTE OF A PRECIOUS GEM…
WHEN I SAVORED YAMAOKA'S TRUFFLE SAUCE WITH BOILED EGGS…
I THOUGHT THERE COULD BE NO GREATER EGG DISH THAN THAT…
BUT SURELY, THIS CAN'T BE JUST ANY ORDINARY PICKLED EGG!
COULD THERE BE A SECRET TO THIS MISO SEASONING…?

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

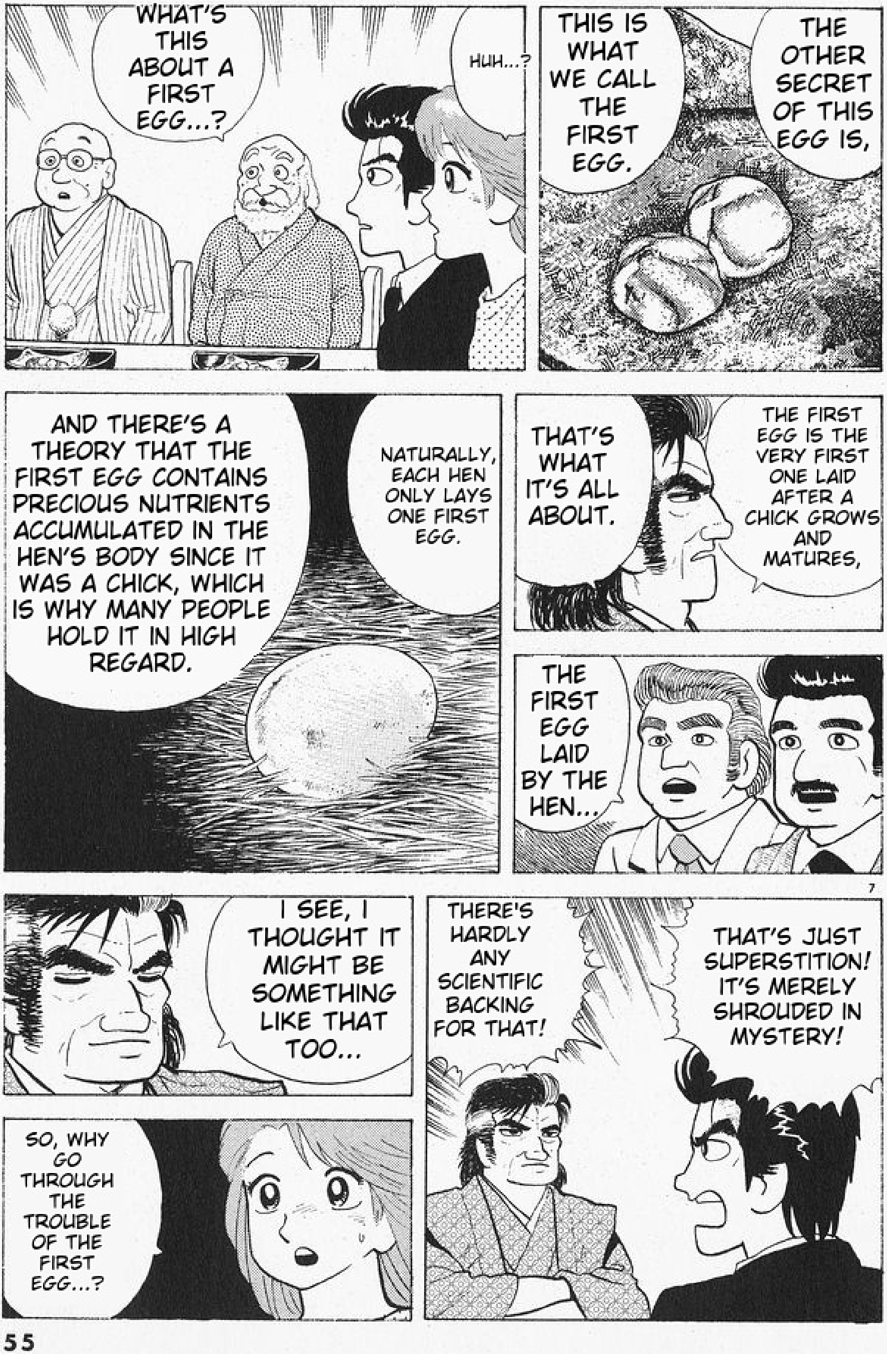

NO, PERHAPS IT'S ALL IN THE WAY IT'S PICKLED...?
COULD IT BE THAT THERE'S A SPECIAL TECHNIQUE INVOLVED...?
SO, IS THAT WHAT IT IS, KAIBARA-SAN?
EVERYONE SEEMS TO BE SAYING JUST THAT...
VERY WELL.
AS I CRAFTED THIS EXQUISITE EGG YOLK MISO MARINATED DISH, THERE'S SOMETHING I INTENTIONALLY LEFT OUT IN THE NEWSPAPER.
THE CHOICE TO OMIT THAT DETAIL WAS A CONSCIOUS DECISION MADE BY US AT THE TEITO NEWSPAPER.
WHEN WE REVEAL THE NEXT 'SUPREME MENU,' ITEM, WE WILL ALSO REVEAL THE SECRET OF THIS DISH...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD GIVE READERS A DELIGHTFUL PUZZLE TO SOLVE.
I'M PLANNING TO CONTINUE UNVEILING THE CREATION OF OUR 'SUPREME MENU' WITH THAT VERY APPROACH MOVING FORWARD.

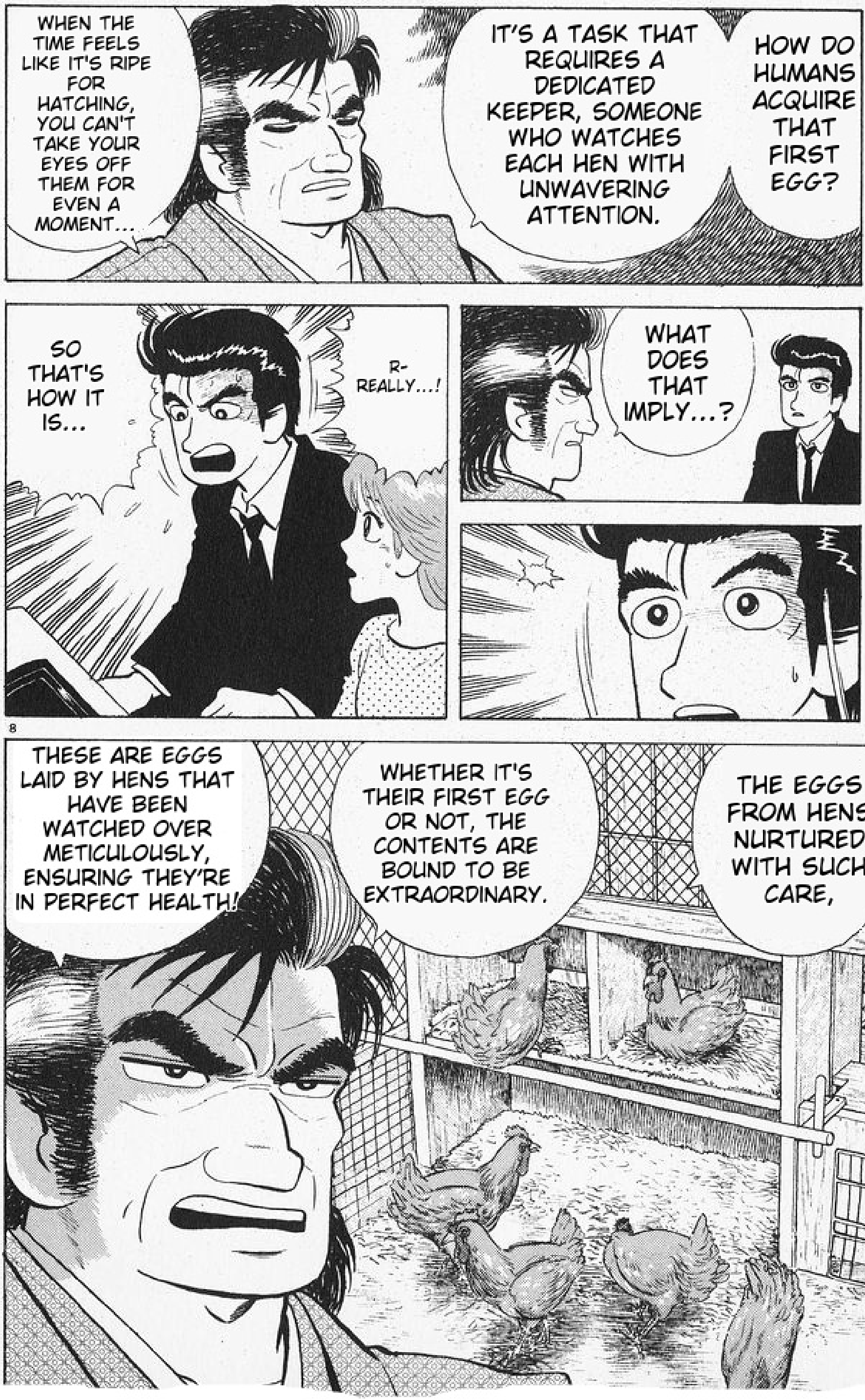

NOW THAT'S A CLEVER APPROACH! THAT'LL DEFINITELY CAPTIVATE THE READERS!
OH, UH, RIGHT...
WELL...
FIRST, ABOUT THE PICKLING METHOD–IT'S JUST AS I WROTE ON THE PAGE. NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT IT.
THE FIRST SECRET LIES WITHIN THE MISO.
THIS MISO FOR THE EGG YOLK CAN'T BE AS SWEET AS WHITE MISO, NOR CAN IT BE AS BITTER AS HACCHO MISO.
I WANT TO ADD A SUBTLE SWEETNESS TO THE CRISP RED MISO.
SO, I CHOSE THE SOYBEANS.
WHOA... FROM THE SOYBEANS USED FOR THE MISO?
THAT'S SO TYPICAL OF KAIBARA-SAN.
I USED A VARIETY FROM TOYAMA CALLED 'ENREI' FOR THE RED MISO.
ALSO, MISO THAT'S BEEN AGED JUST ONE YEAR IS STILL TOO YOUNG AND LACKS DEPTH, WHILE THREE YEARS BRINGS OUT BITTERNESS AND MAKES IT TOO HARSH.
TWO YEARS IS JUST RIGHT FOR PICKLING THE YOLKS.
SIGH...
HMM... AND THE AGING TIME...


ON THE OTHER HAND, FOR THE WHITE MISO, WE USE THE AKITA VARIETY CALLED 'SHIROCHINARI.
' THIS SOYBEAN IS RICH IN SUGARS, ALLOWING US TO CREATE A DELICATELY SWEET WHITE MISO.
THE MISO FOR SOAKING THE YOLK IS MADE BY COMBINING BOTH TYPES.
WE BLEND THEM IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE SWEETNESS IS JUST SUBTLE ENOUGH TO NOT BE OVERWHELMING.
HMM, I SEE... OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS, OH MY GOODNESS!
FEELING THE SWEETNESS TOO STRONGLY CAN BE QUITE OFF-PUTTING, CAN'T IT?
AND OF COURSE, BOTH VARIETIES OF SOYBEANS ARE CULTIVATED WITHOUT THE USE OF PESTICIDES OR HERBICIDES.
WHEN PESTICIDES AND HERBICIDES ARE USED, IT DISRUPTS THE PLANT'S METABOLISM, LEADING TO UNHEALTHY GROWTH. THIS CAN RESULT IN UNDERDEVELOPED BEANS OR A BITTER TASTE.
WELL... TO THINK WE TRACE BACK TO SUCH ROOTS JUST TO CRAFT A SIMPLE MISO...
HOWEVER, THE REAL GAME-CHANGER IS THE EGG.
!......

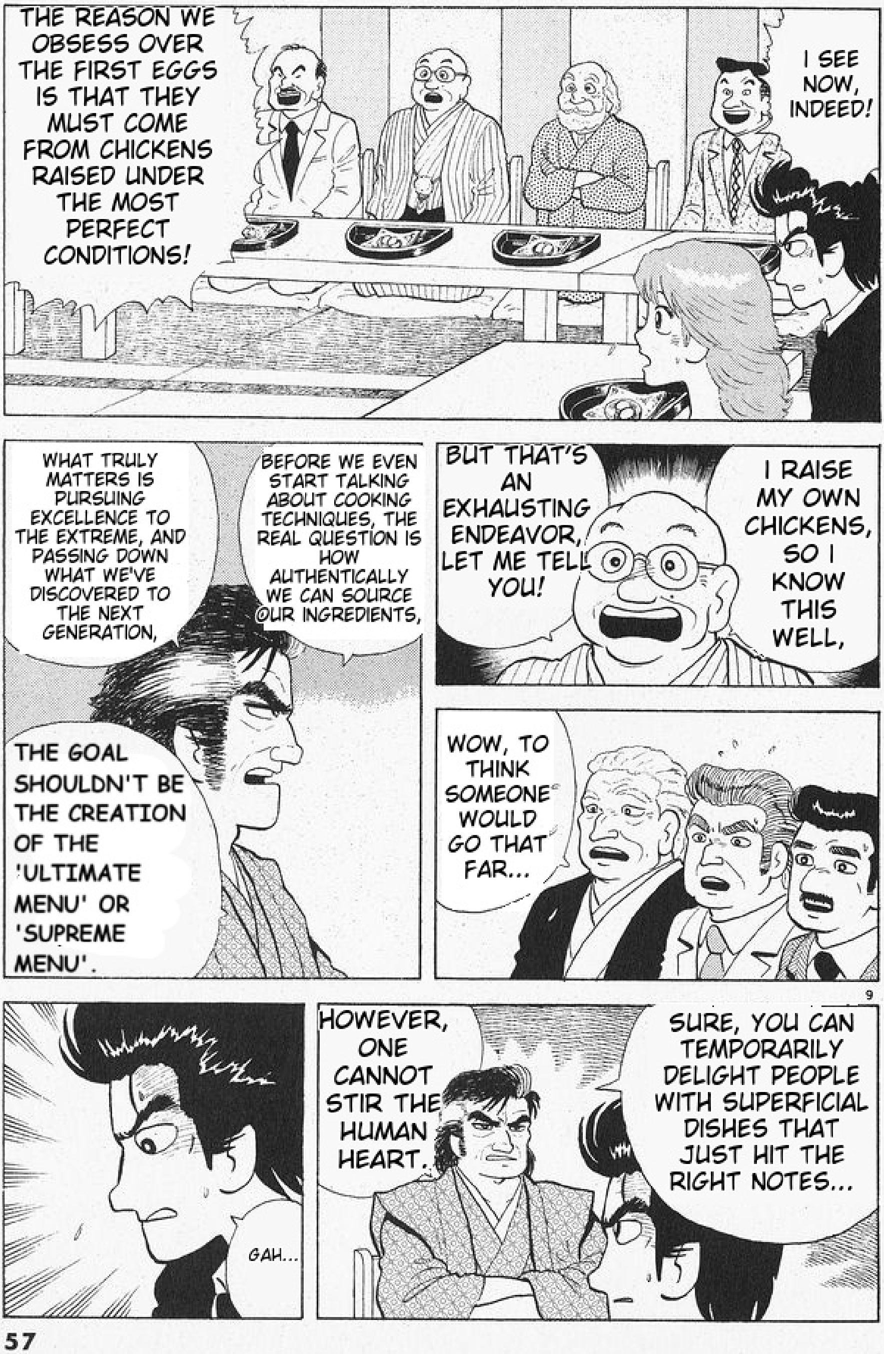

THE BREED IS ONAGADORI.
WHILE IT LAYS FEWER EGGS THAN THE WHITE LEGHORN, THE FLAVOR OF ITS EGGS IS RICHER.
THESE WERE RAISED IN A NATURAL OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT.
THE FEED WAS PRIMARILY MADE UP OF LEFTOVER RICE, BARLEY, AND RICE BRAN.
INSTEAD, IN CRAMPED CAGES, THEY'RE STUFFED WITH ANTIBIOTIC-LADEN FEED, SPENDING THEIR LIVES WITHOUT EVER TOUCHING THE GROUND OR SEEING THE SUN...
IF THEY'RE RAISED NOT EVEN REGARDED AS LIVING BEINGS, TREATED LIKE MERE MACHINES THAT TURN FEED INTO EGGS, THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL BECOME HEALTHY CHICKENS!
UNHEALTHY CHICKENS PRODUCE NOT ONLY TERRIBLE-TASTING MEAT BUT THEIR EGGS ARE DOWNRIGHT FOUL!
AMONG THOSE, THE YOLK TENDS TO COLLECT SOME PRETTY UNPLEASANT ODORS.
I SEE... THE YOLK IS INDEED A TREASURE TROVE OF VITAL NUTRIENTS FOR A CHICK TO GROW, BUT IT ALSO GATHERS THE NOT-SO-GREAT COMPONENTS TOO.
HMM, EVEN WITHIN FREE-RANGE FARMING, THERE'S A WIDE SPECTRUM FROM GOOD TO BAD.
6
?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...?
EVEN THAT BOILED EGG WITH TRUFFLE SAUCE WAS MADE WITH PROPERLY SOURCED FREE-RANGE EGGS!
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD DEFINITELY BE MINDFUL OF THE MOMENT YOU DECIDE TO WHIP UP AN EGG DISH.

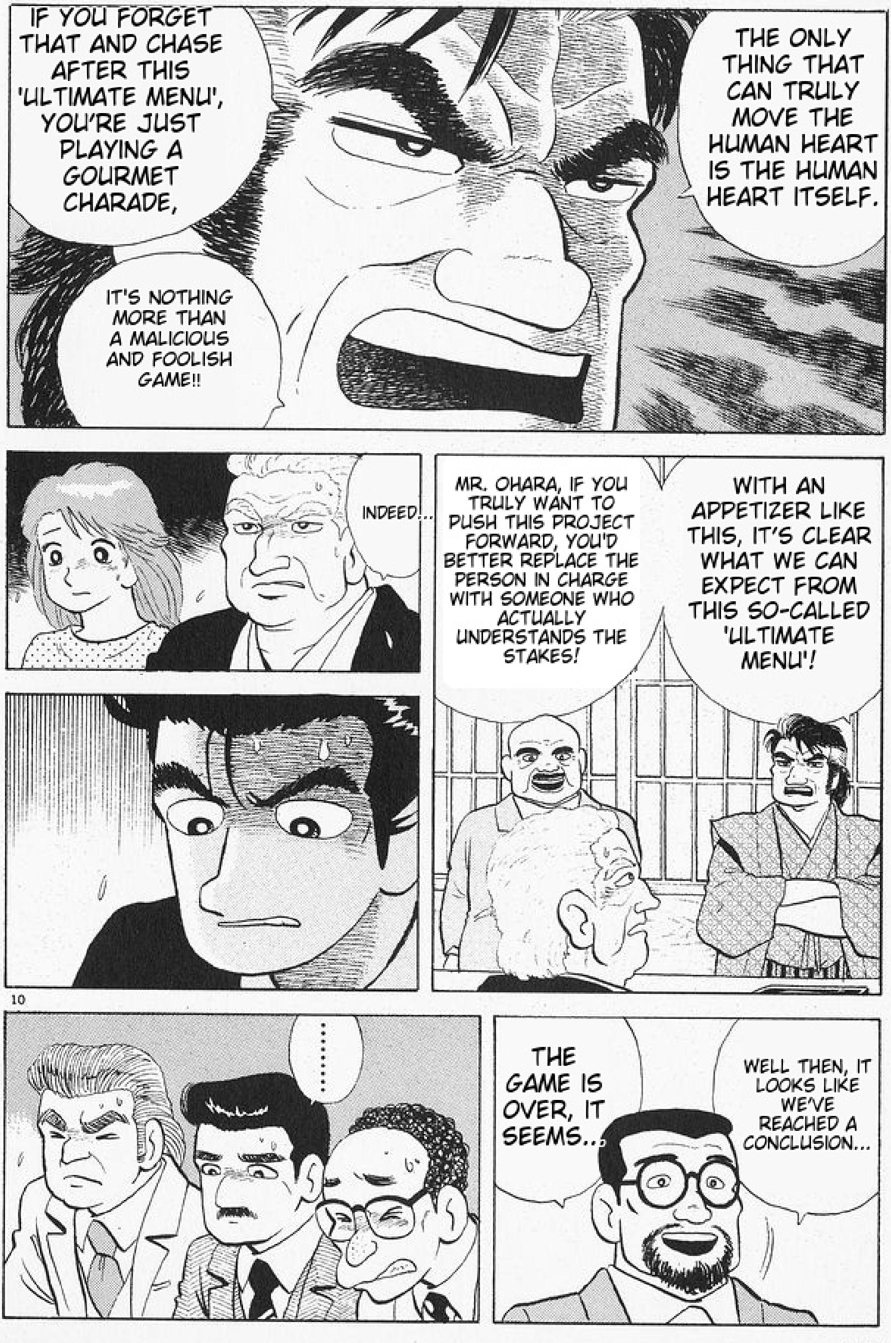
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15


THE OTHER SECRET OF THIS EGG IS,
THIS IS WHAT WE CALL THE FIRST EGG.
HUH...?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A FIRST EGG...?
THE FIRST EGG IS THE VERY FIRST ONE LAID AFTER A CHICK GROWS AND MATURES,
THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT.
THE FIRST EGG LAID BY THE HEN...
NATURALLY, EACH HEN ONLY LAYS ONE FIRST EGG.
AND THERE'S A THEORY THAT THE FIRST EGG CONTAINS PRECIOUS NUTRIENTS ACCUMULATED IN THE HEN'S BODY SINCE IT WAS A CHICK, WHICH IS WHY MANY PEOPLE HOLD IT IN HIGH REGARD.
THAT'S JUST SUPERSTITION! IT'S MERELY SHROUDED IN MYSTERY!
THERE'S HARDLY ANY SCIENTIFIC BACKING FOR THAT!
I SEE, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING LIKE THAT TOO...
SO, WHY GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF THE FIRST EGG...?

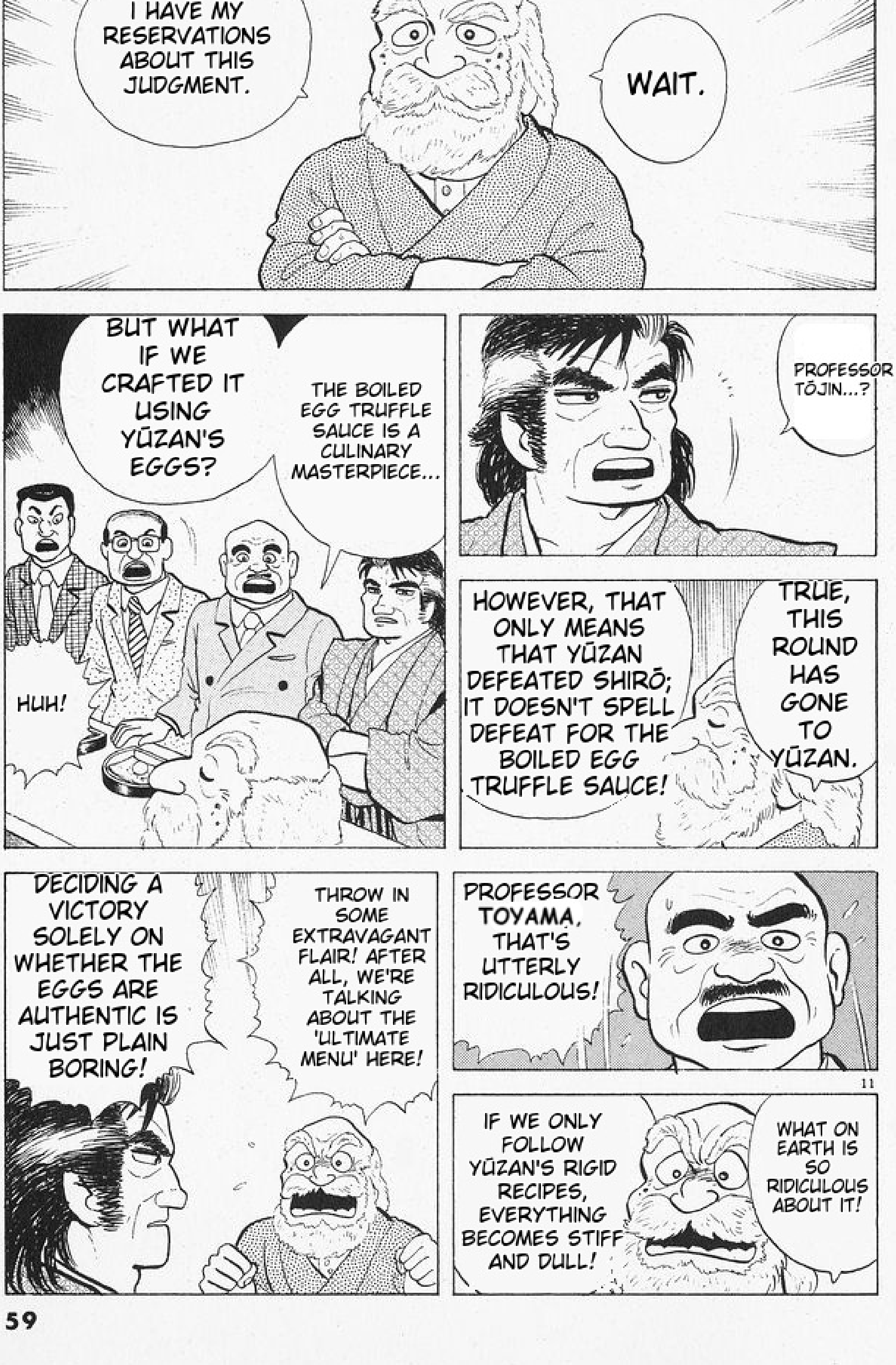

HOW DO HUMANS ACQUIRE THAT FIRST EGG?
IT'S A TASK THAT REQUIRES A DEDICATED KEEPER, SOMEONE WHO WATCHES EACH HEN WITH UNWAVERING ATTENTION.
WHEN THE TIME FEELS LIKE IT'S RIPE FOR HATCHING, YOU CAN'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF THEM FOR EVEN A MOMENT…
WHAT DOES THAT IMPLY…?
R-REALLY…!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS…
THE EGGS FROM HENS NURTURED WITH SUCH CARE,
WHETHER IT'S THEIR FIRST EGG OR NOT, THE CONTENTS ARE BOUND TO BE EXTRAORDINARY.
THESE ARE EGGS LAID BY HENS THAT HAVE BEEN WATCHED OVER METICULOUSLY, ENSURING THEY'RE IN PERFECT HEALTH!

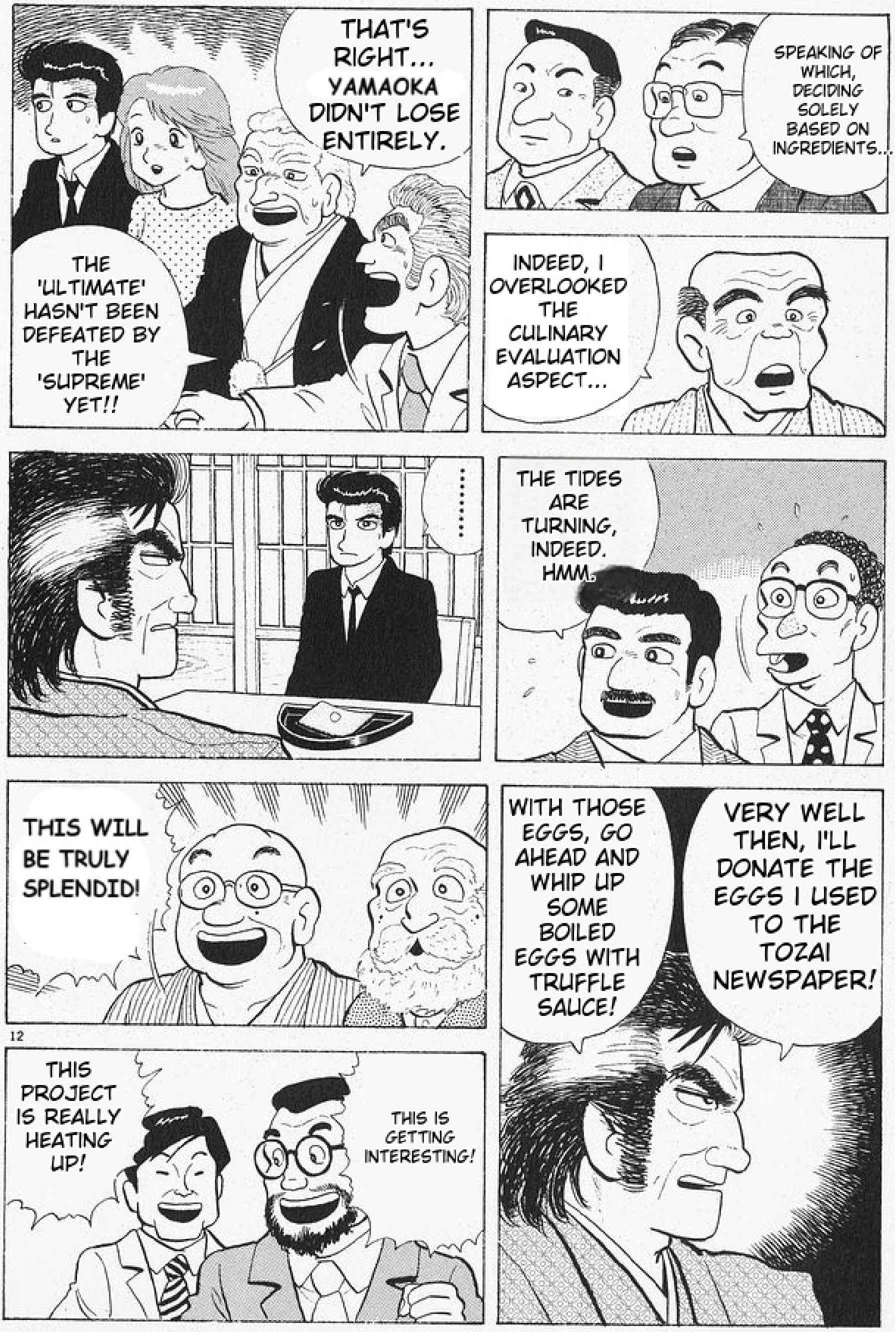
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15


THE REASON WE OBSESS OVER THE FIRST EGGS IS THAT THEY MUST COME FROM CHICKENS RAISED UNDER THE MOST PERFECT CONDITIONS!
I SEE NOW, INDEED!
I RAISE MY OWN CHICKENS, SO I KNOW THIS WELL,
BUT THAT'S AN EXHAUSTING ENDEAVOR, LET ME TELL YOU!
WOW, TO THINK SOMEONE WOULD GO THAT FAR...
BEFORE WE EVEN START TALKING ABOUT COOKING TECHNIQUES, THE REAL QUESTION IS HOW AUTHENTICALLY WE CAN SOURCE OUR INGREDIENTS,
WHAT TRULY MATTERS IS PURSUING EXCELLENCE TO THE EXTREME, AND PASSING DOWN WHAT WE'VE DISCOVERED TO THE NEXT GENERATION,
THE GOAL SHOULDN'T BE THE CREATION OF THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' OR 'SUPREME MENU'.
SURE, YOU CAN TEMPORARILY DELIGHT PEOPLE WITH SUPERFICIAL DISHES THAT JUST HIT THE RIGHT NOTES...
HOWEVER, ONE CANNOT STIR THE HUMAN HEART.
GAH...

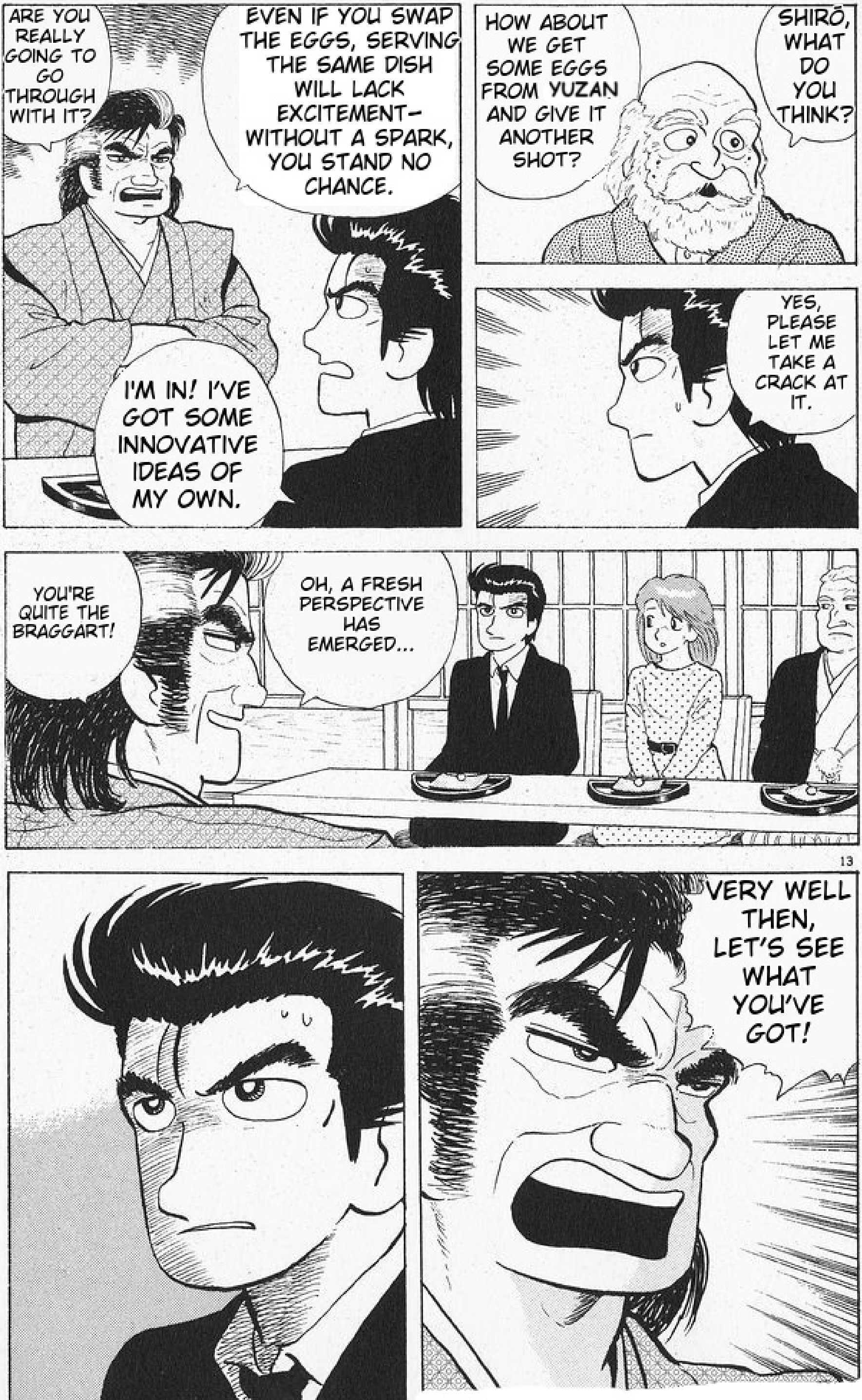

THE ONLY THING THAT CAN TRULY MOVE THE HUMAN HEART IS THE HUMAN HEART ITSELF.
IF YOU FORGET THAT AND CHASE AFTER THIS 'ULTIMATE MENU', YOU'RE JUST PLAYING A GOURMET CHARADE,
IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN A MALICIOUS AND FOOLISH GAME!!
WITH AN APPETIZER LIKE THIS, IT'S CLEAR WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM THIS SO-CALLED 'ULTIMATE MENU'!
MR. OHARA, IF YOU TRULY WANT TO PUSH THIS PROJECT FORWARD, YOU'D BETTER REPLACE THE PERSON IN CHARGE WITH SOMEONE WHO ACTUALLY UNDERSTANDS THE STAKES!
INDEED...
10
WELL THEN, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE REACHED A CONCLUSION...
THE GAME IS OVER, IT SEEMS...
......

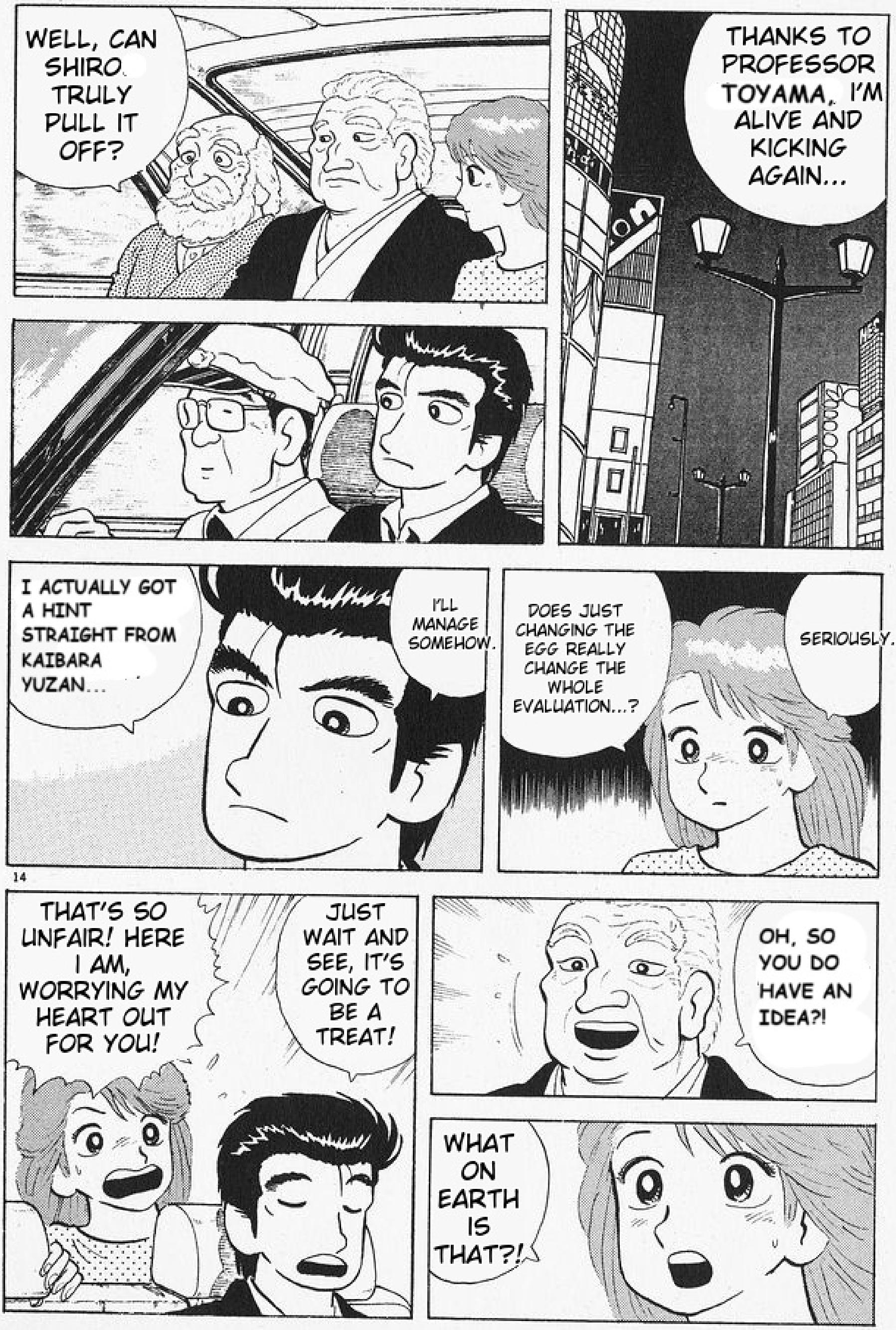
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15


WAIT.
I HAVE MY RESERVATIONS ABOUT THIS JUDGMENT.
PROFESSOR TŌJIN...?
TRUE, THIS ROUND HAS GONE TO YŪZAN.
HOWEVER, THAT ONLY MEANS THAT YŪZAN DEFEATED SHIRŌ; IT DOESN'T SPELL DEFEAT FOR THE BOILED EGG TRUFFLE SAUCE!
THE BOILED EGG TRUFFLE SAUCE IS A CULINARY MASTERPIECE...
BUT WHAT IF WE CRAFTED IT USING YŪZAN'S EGGS?
HUH!
PROFESSOR TOYAMA, THAT'S UTTERLY RIDICULOUS!
11
WHAT ON EARTH IS SO RIDICULOUS ABOUT IT!
IF WE ONLY FOLLOW YŪZAN'S RIGID RECIPES, EVERYTHING BECOMES STIFF AND DULL!
THROW IN SOME EXTRAVAGANT FLAIR! AFTER ALL, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE 'ULTIMATE MENU' HERE!
DECIDING A VICTORY SOLELY ON WHETHER THE EGGS ARE AUTHENTIC IS JUST PLAIN BORING!

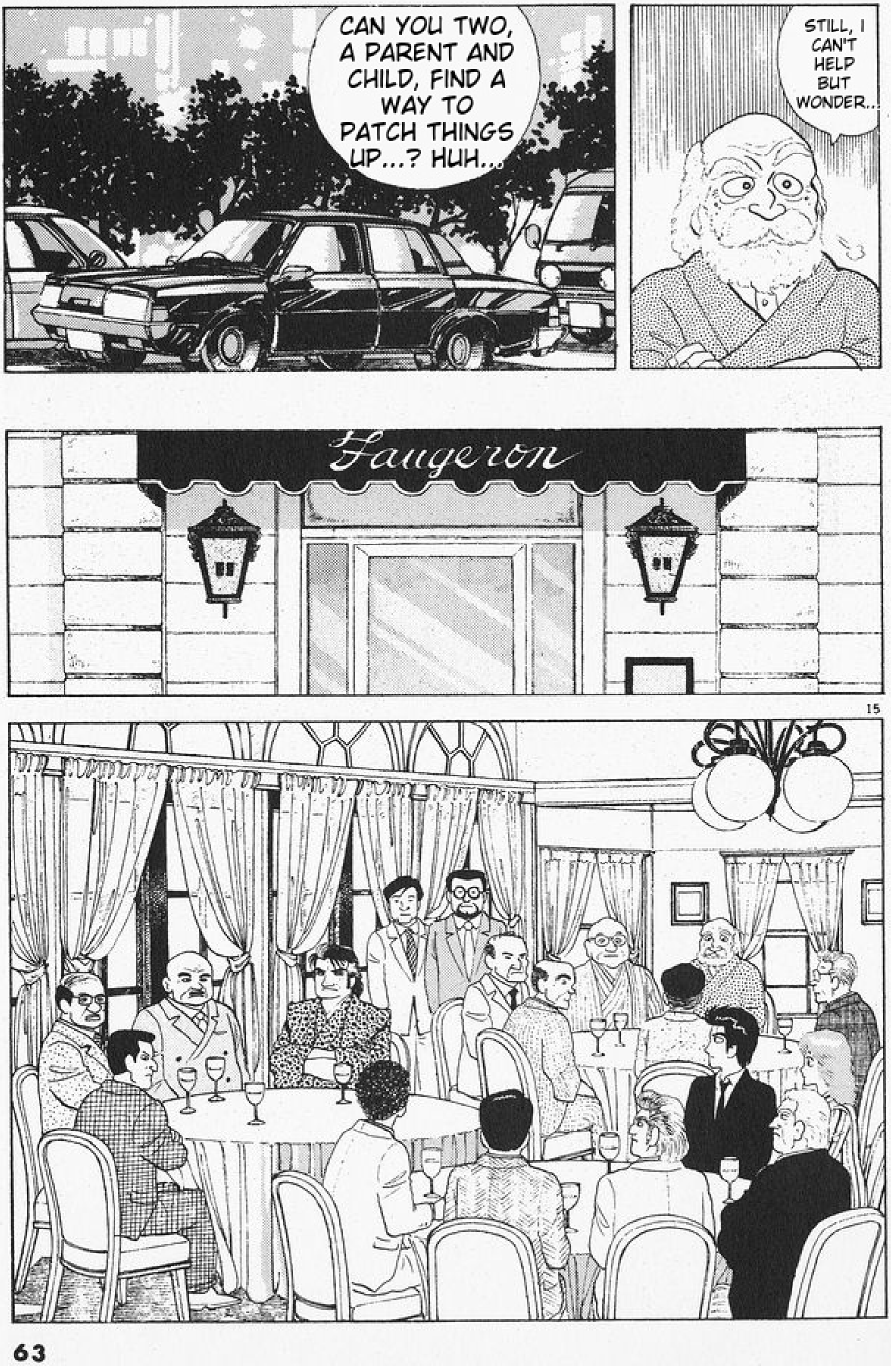

SPEAKING OF WHICH, DECIDING SOLELY BASED ON INGREDIENTS...
INDEED, I OVERLOOKED THE CULINARY EVALUATION ASPECT...
THAT'S RIGHT... YAMAOKA DIDN'T LOSE ENTIRELY.
THE 'ULTIMATE' HASN'T BEEN DEFEATED BY THE 'SUPREME' YET!!
THE TIDES ARE TURNING, INDEED. HMM.
......
VERY WELL THEN, I'LL DONATE THE EGGS I USED TO THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER!
WITH THOSE EGGS, GO AHEAD AND WHIP UP SOME BOILED EGGS WITH TRUFFLE SAUCE!
THIS WILL BE TRULY SPLENDID!
THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING!
THIS PROJECT IS REALLY HEATING UP!

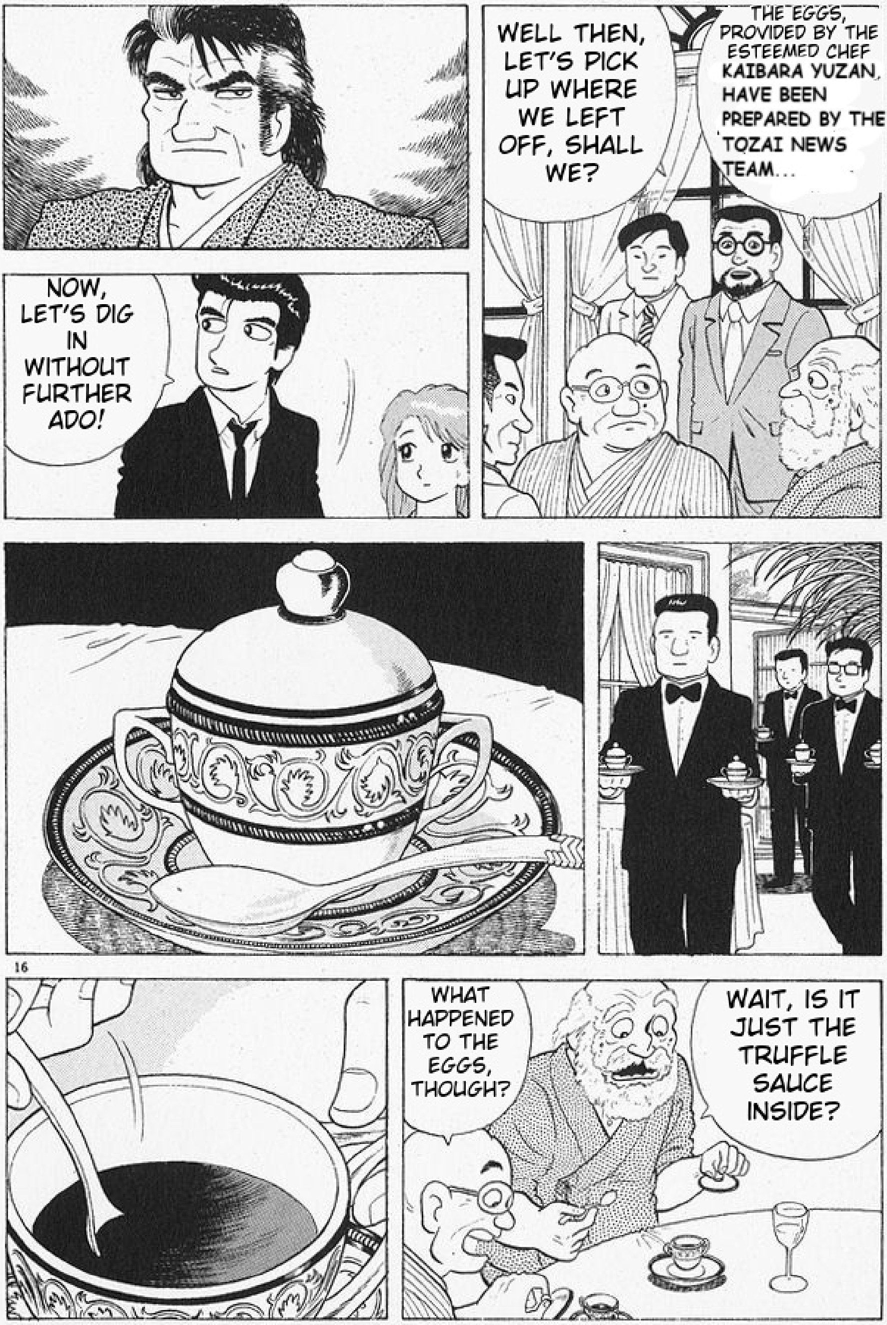
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

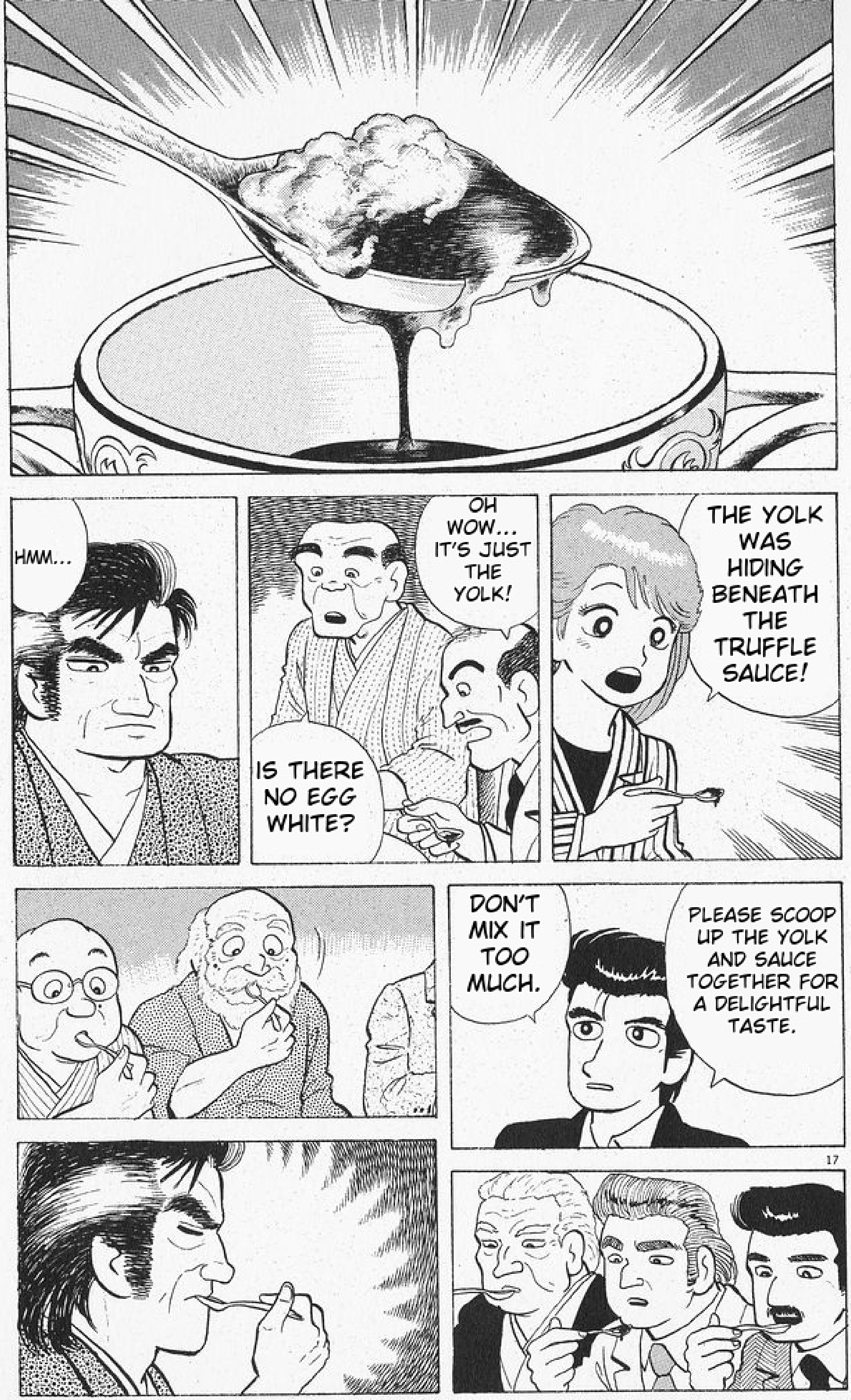

HOW ABOUT WE GET SOME EGGS FROM YUZAN AND GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT?
SHIRŌ, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
YES, PLEASE LET ME TAKE A CRACK AT IT.
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?
EVEN IF YOU SWAP THE EGGS, SERVING THE SAME DISH WILL LACK EXCITEMENT— WITHOUT A SPARK, YOU STAND NO CHANCE.
I'M IN! I'VE GOT SOME INNOVATIVE IDEAS OF MY OWN.
OH, A FRESH PERSPECTIVE HAS EMERGED...
YOU'RE QUITE THE BRAGGART!
VERY WELL THEN, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!

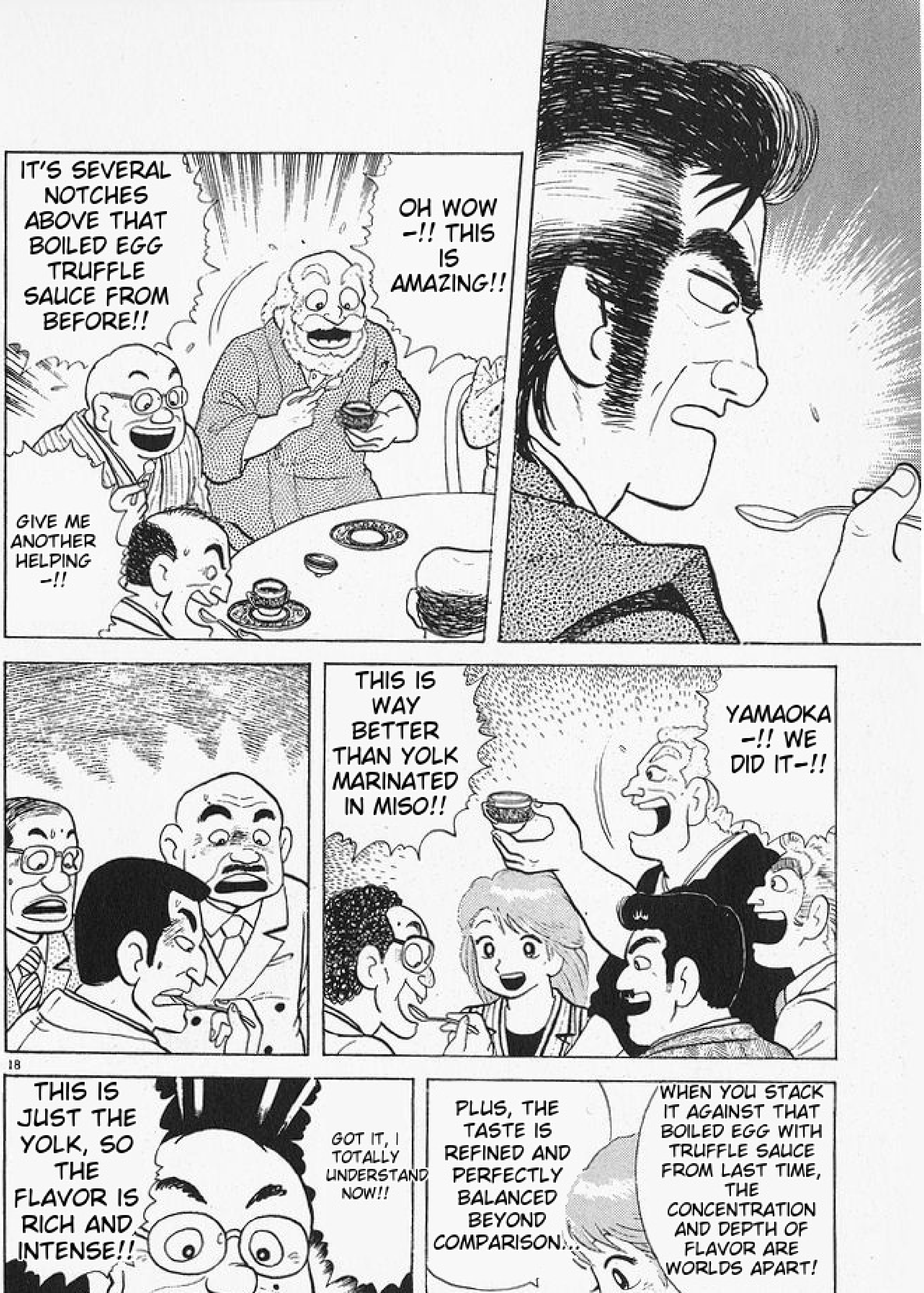

THANKS TO PROFESSOR TOYAMA, I'M ALIVE AND KICKING AGAIN...
WELL, CAN SHIRO TRULY PULL IT OFF?
SERIOUSLY...?
DOES JUST CHANGING THE EGG REALLY CHANGE THE WHOLE EVALUATION...?
I'LL MANAGE SOMEHOW.
I ACTUALLY GOT A HINT STRAIGHT FROM KAIBARA YUZAN...
OH, SO YOU DO HAVE AN IDEA?!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?!
JUST WAIT AND SEE, IT'S GOING TO BE A TREAT!
THAT'S SO UNFAIR! HERE I AM, WORRYING MY HEART OUT FOR YOU!

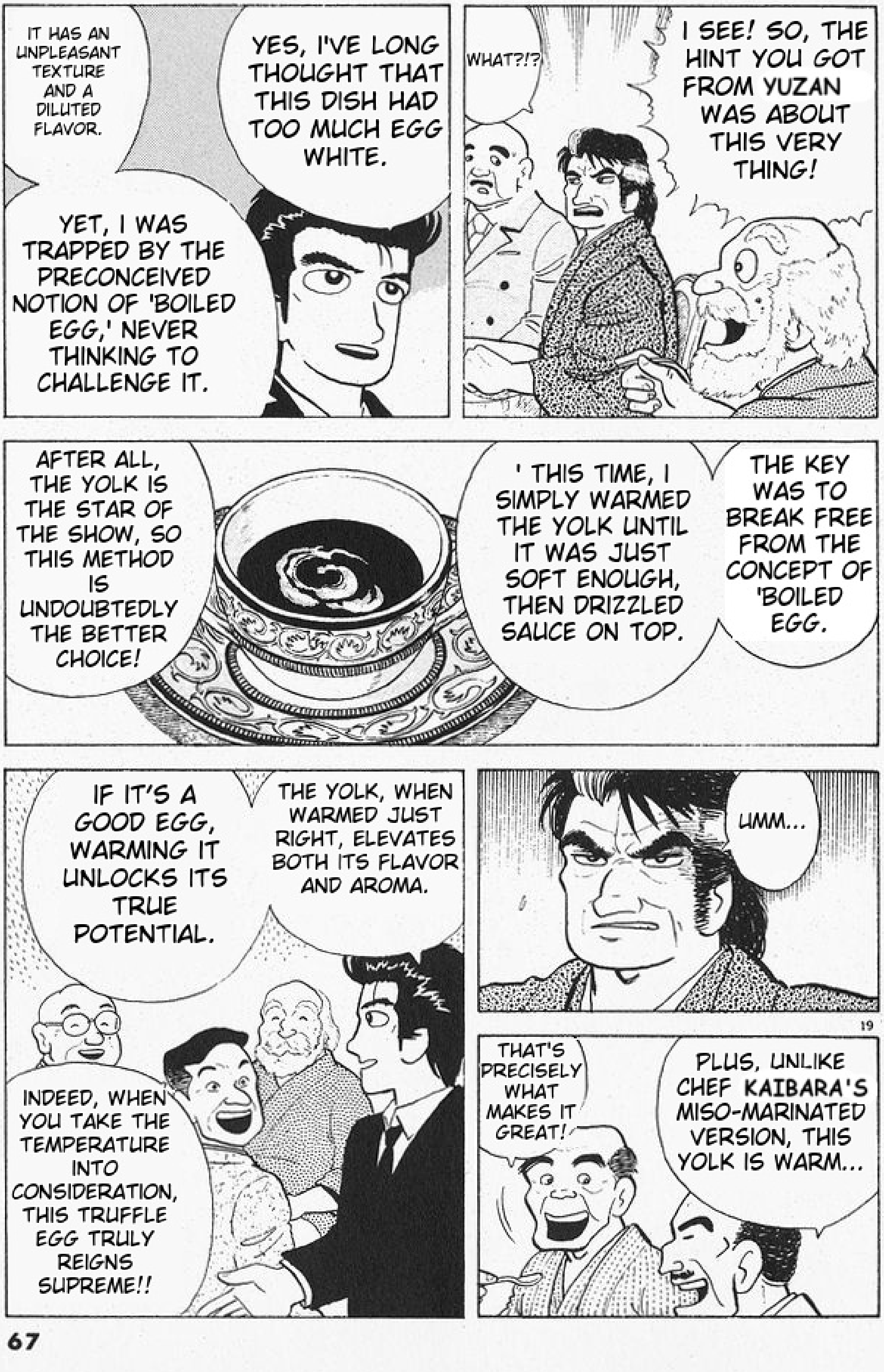
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

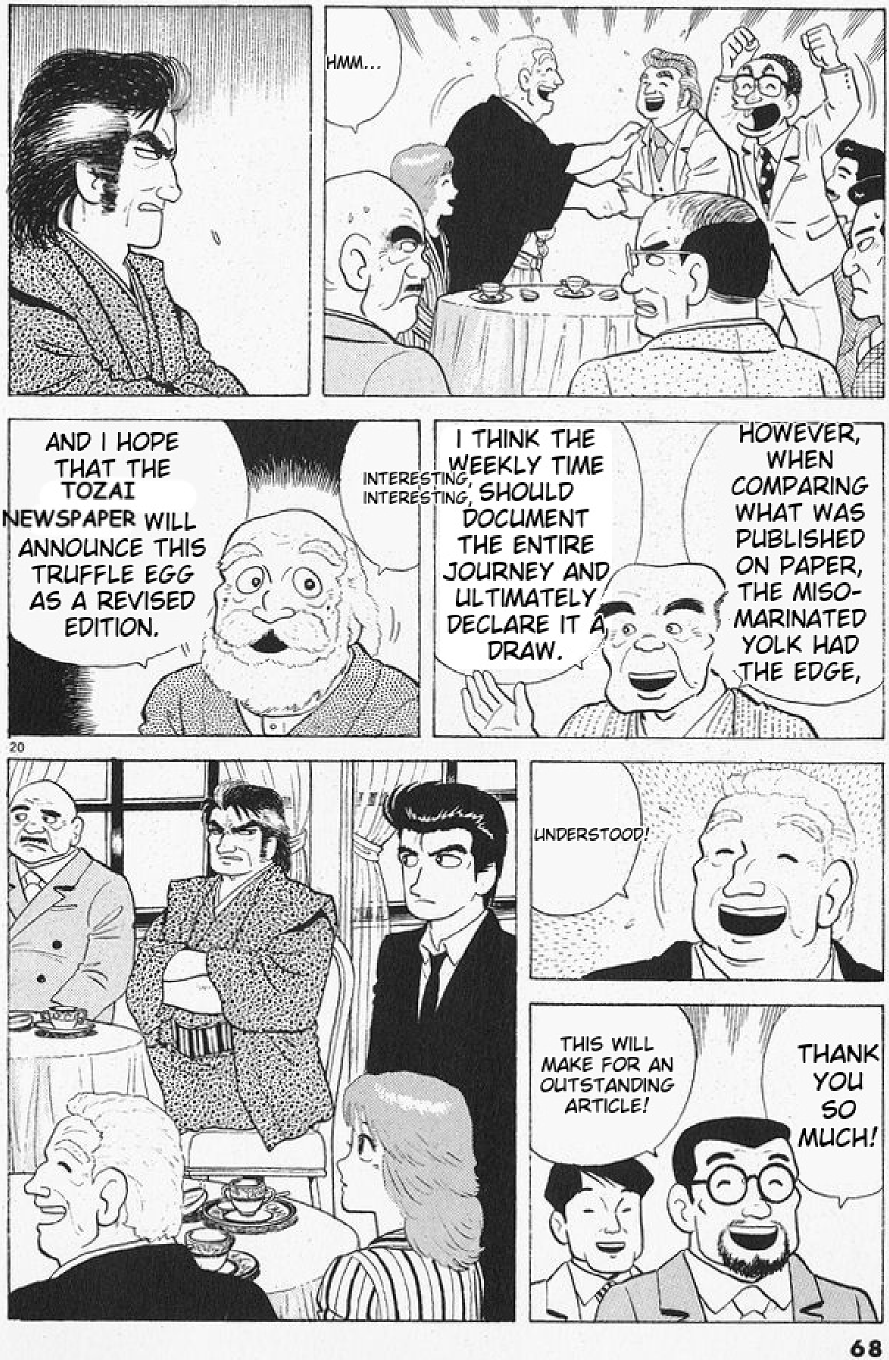

STILL, I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...
CAN YOU TWO, A PARENT AND CHILD, FIND A WAY TO PATCH THINGS UP...? HUH...
Faugeron
15


THE EGGS, PROVIDED BY THE ESTEEMED CHEF KAIBARA YUZAN, HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY THE TOZAI NEWS TEAM...
WELL THEN, LET'S PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF, SHALL WE?
NOW, LET'S DIG IN WITHOUT FURTHER ADO!
WAIT, IS IT JUST THE TRUFFLE SAUCE INSIDE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EGGS, THOUGH?

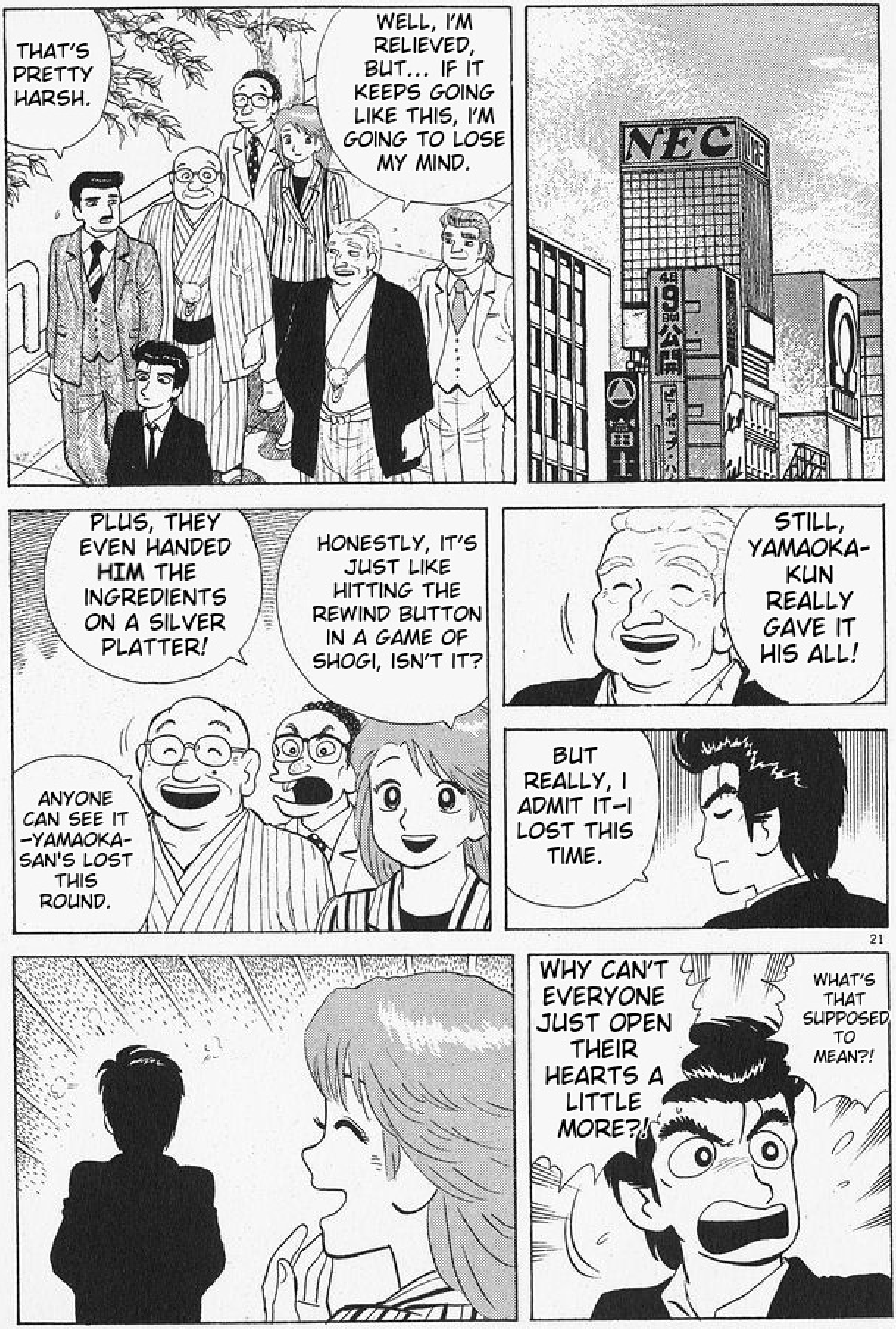

THE YOLK WAS HIDING BENEATH THE TRUFFLE SAUCE!
OH WOW... IT'S JUST THE YOLK!
IS THERE NO EGG WHITE?
HMM...
PLEASE SCOOP UP THE YOLK AND SAUCE TOGETHER FOR A DELIGHTFUL TASTE.
DON'T MIX IT TOO MUCH.

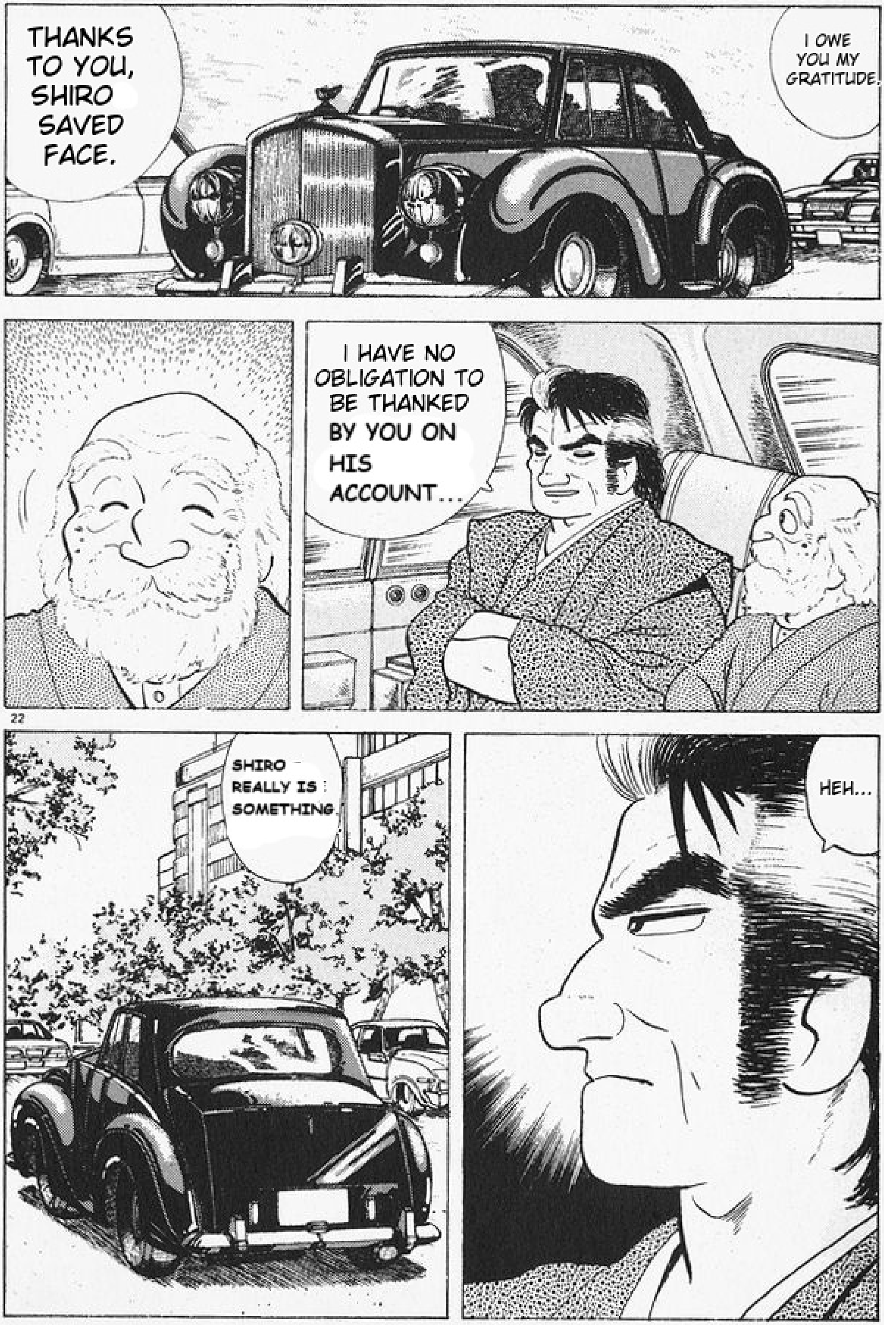

OH WOW -!! THIS IS AMAZING!!
IT'S SEVERAL NOTCHES ABOVE THAT BOILED EGG TRUFFLE SAUCE FROM BEFORE!!
GIVE ME ANOTHER HELPING -!!
YAMAOKA -!! WE DID IT-!!
THIS IS WAY BETTER THAN YOLK MARINATED IN MISO!!
WHEN YOU STACK IT AGAINST THAT BOILED EGG WITH TRUFFLE SAUCE FROM LAST TIME, THE CONCENTRATION AND DEPTH OF FLAVOR ARE WORLDS APART!
PLUS, THE TASTE IS REFINED AND PERFECTLY BALANCED BEYOND COMPARISON...
GOT IT, I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND NOW!!
THIS IS JUST THE YOLK, SO THE FLAVOR IS RICH AND INTENSE!!


I SEE! SO, THE HINT YOU GOT FROM YUZAN WAS ABOUT THIS VERY THING!
WHAT?!?
YES, I'VE LONG THOUGHT THAT THIS DISH HAD TOO MUCH EGG WHITE.
IT HAS AN UNPLEASANT TEXTURE AND A DILUTED FLAVOR.
YET, I WAS TRAPPED BY THE PRECONCEIVED NOTION OF 'BOILED EGG,' NEVER THINKING TO CHALLENGE IT.
THE KEY WAS TO BREAK FREE FROM THE CONCEPT OF 'BOILED EGG.
' THIS TIME, I SIMPLY WARMED THE YOLK UNTIL IT WAS JUST SOFT ENOUGH, THEN DRIZZLED SAUCE ON TOP.
AFTER ALL, THE YOLK IS THE STAR OF THE SHOW, SO THIS METHOD IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE BETTER CHOICE!
UMM...
THE YOLK, WHEN WARMED JUST RIGHT, ELEVATES BOTH ITS FLAVOR AND AROMA.
IF IT'S A GOOD EGG, WARMING IT UNLOCKS ITS TRUE POTENTIAL.
INDEED, WHEN YOU TAKE THE TEMPERATURE INTO CONSIDERATION, THIS TRUFFLE EGG TRULY REIGNS SUPREME!!
19
PLUS, UNLIKE CHEF KAIBARA'S MISO-MARINATED VERSION, THIS YOLK IS WARM...
THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT MAKES IT GREAT!


HMM...
HOWEVER, WHEN COMPARING WHAT WAS PUBLISHED ON PAPER, THE MISO-MARINATED YOLK HAD THE EDGE,
I THINK THE WEEKLY TIME SHOULD DOCUMENT THE ENTIRE JOURNEY AND ULTIMATELY DECLARE IT A DRAW.
INTERESTING, INTERESTING,
AND I HOPE THAT THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER WILL ANNOUNCE THIS TRUFFLE EGG AS A REVISED EDITION.
UNDERSTOOD!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THIS WILL MAKE FOR AN OUTSTANDING ARTICLE!

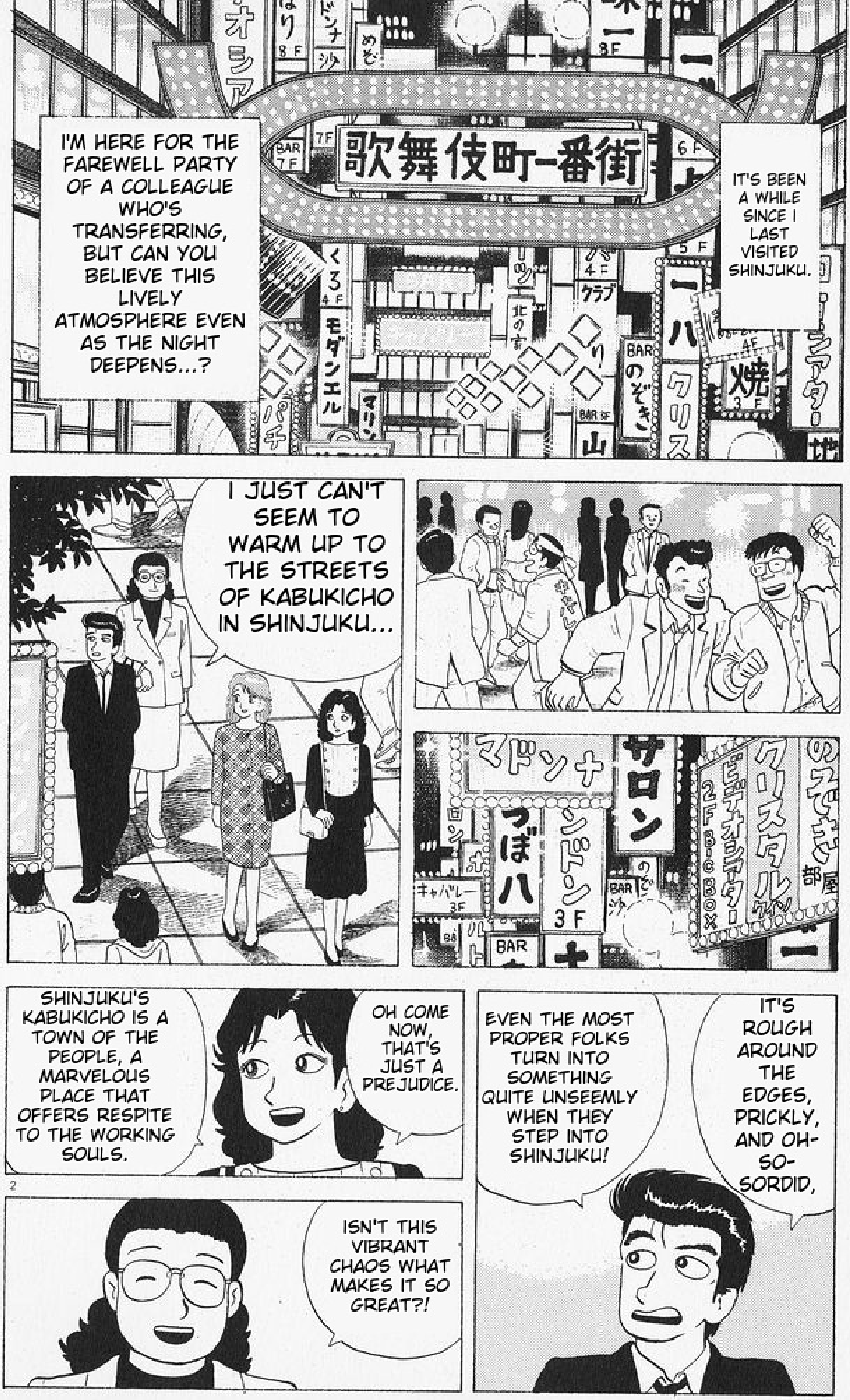
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15

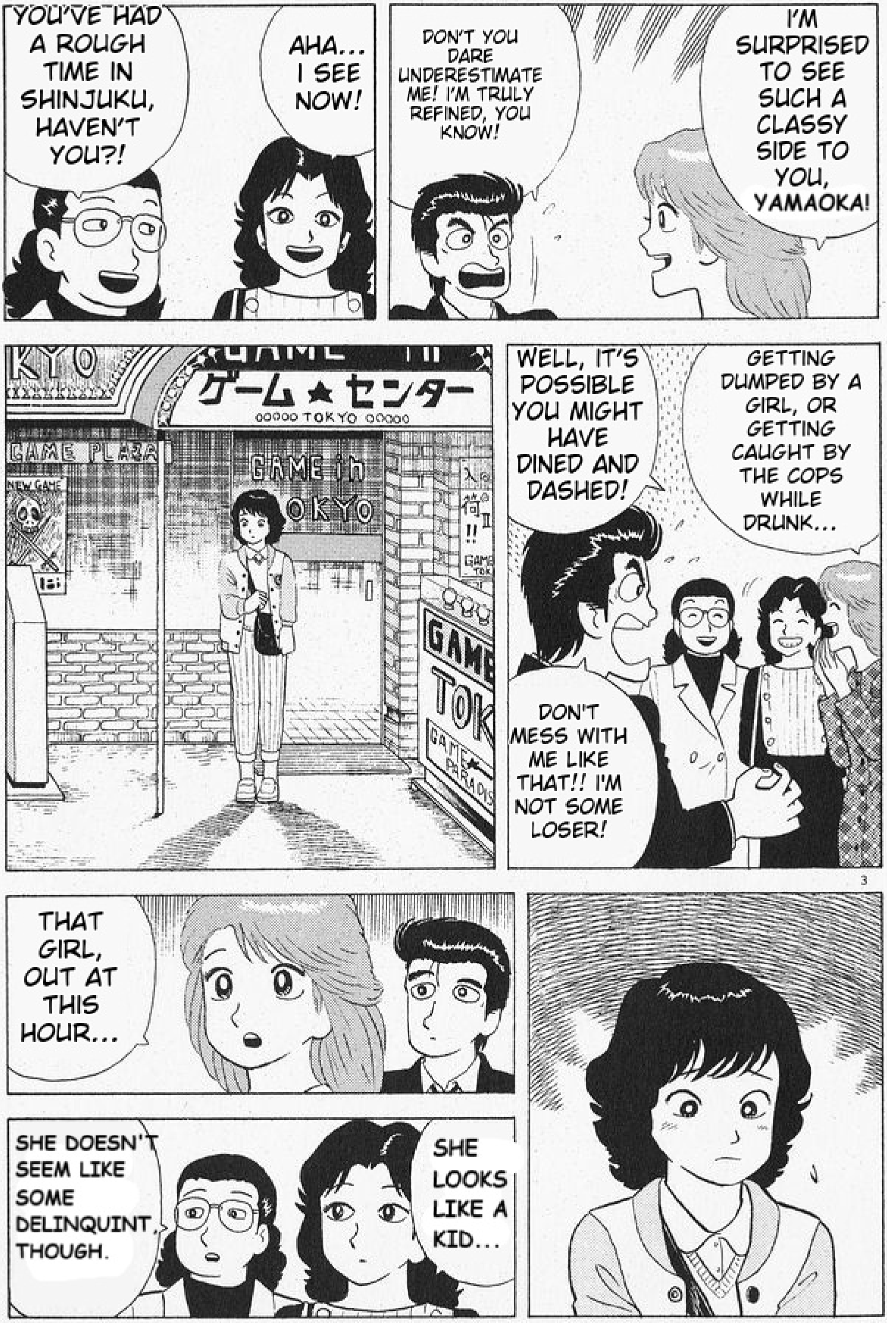

THAT'S PRETTY HARSH.
WELL, I'M RELIEVED, BUT... IF IT KEEPS GOING LIKE THIS, I'M GOING TO LOSE MY MIND.
NEC
4月9日公開
PLUS, THEY EVEN HANDED HIM THE INGREDIENTS ON A SILVER PLATTER!
HONESTLY, IT'S JUST LIKE HITTING THE REWIND BUTTON IN A GAME OF SHOGI, ISN'T IT?
ANYONE CAN SEE IT -YAMAOKA-SAN'S LOST THIS ROUND.
STILL, YAMAOKA-KUN REALLY GAVE IT HIS ALL!
BUT REALLY, I ADMIT IT-I LOST THIS TIME.
WHY CAN'T EVERYONE JUST OPEN THEIR HEARTS A LITTLE MORE?!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

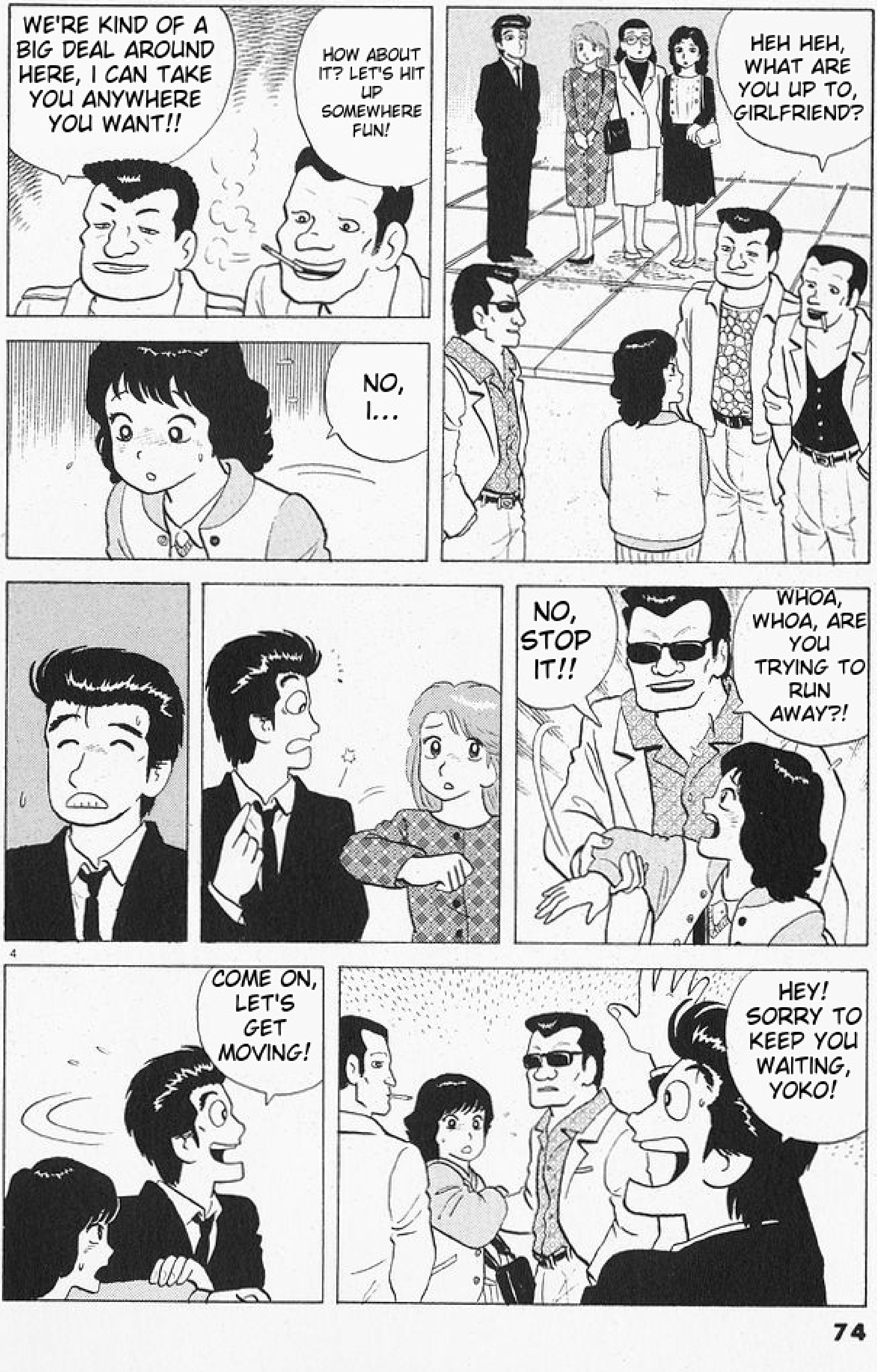

I OWE YOU MY GRATITUDE!
THANKS TO YOU, SHIRO SAVED FACE.
I HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO BE THANKED BY YOU ON HIS ACCOUNT...
22
HEH...
SHIRO REALLY IS SOMETHING.

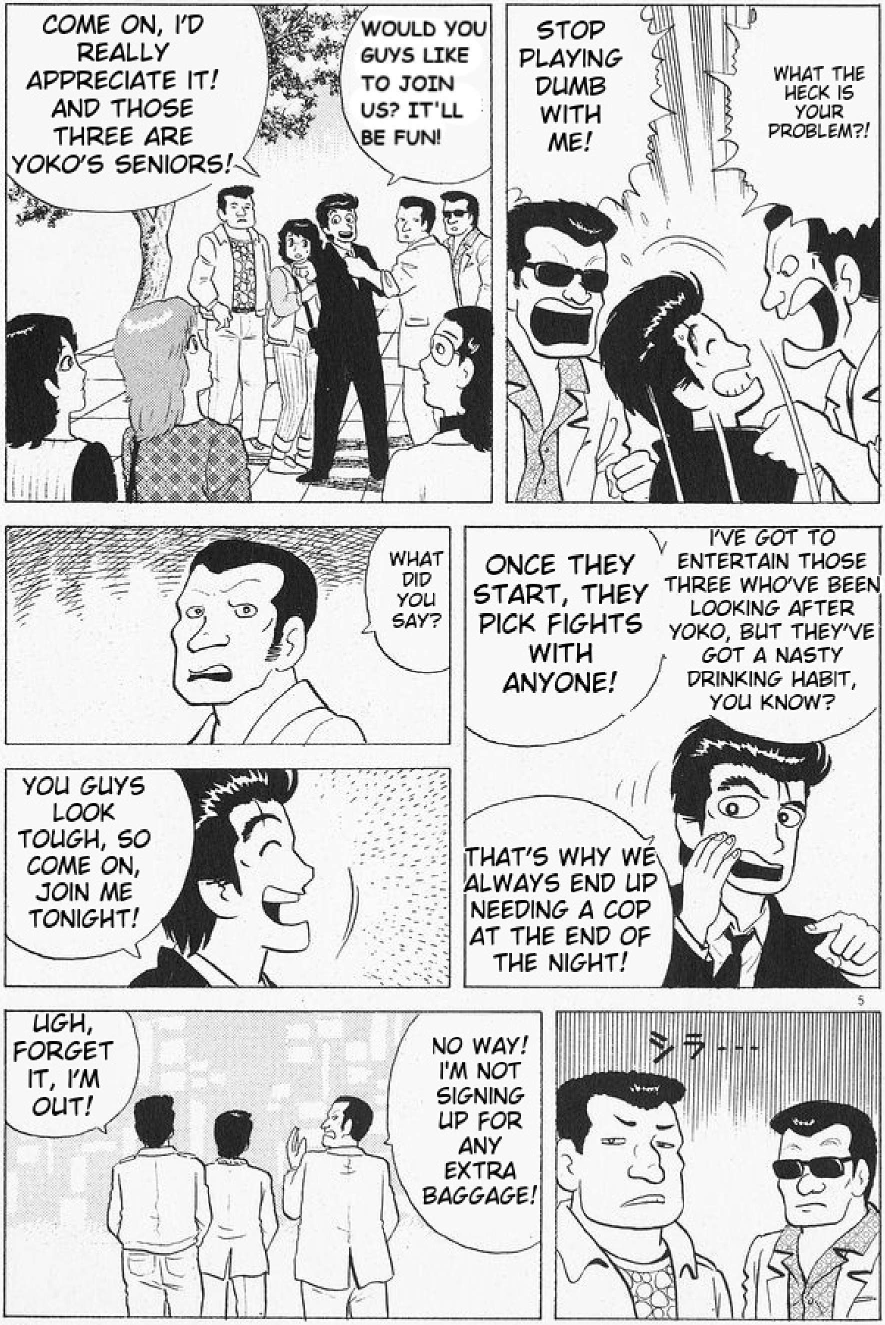
第2話

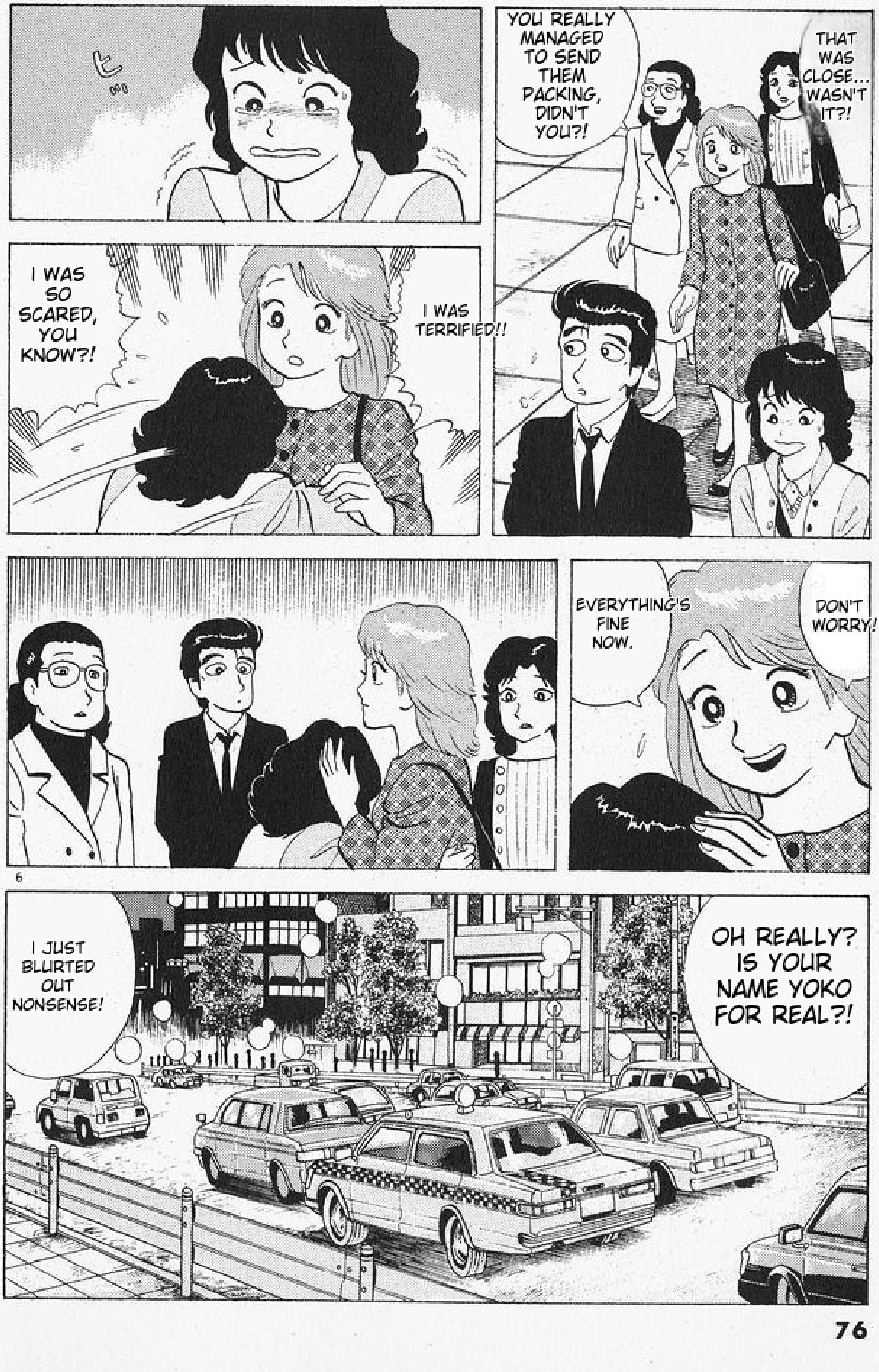
家族の食卓

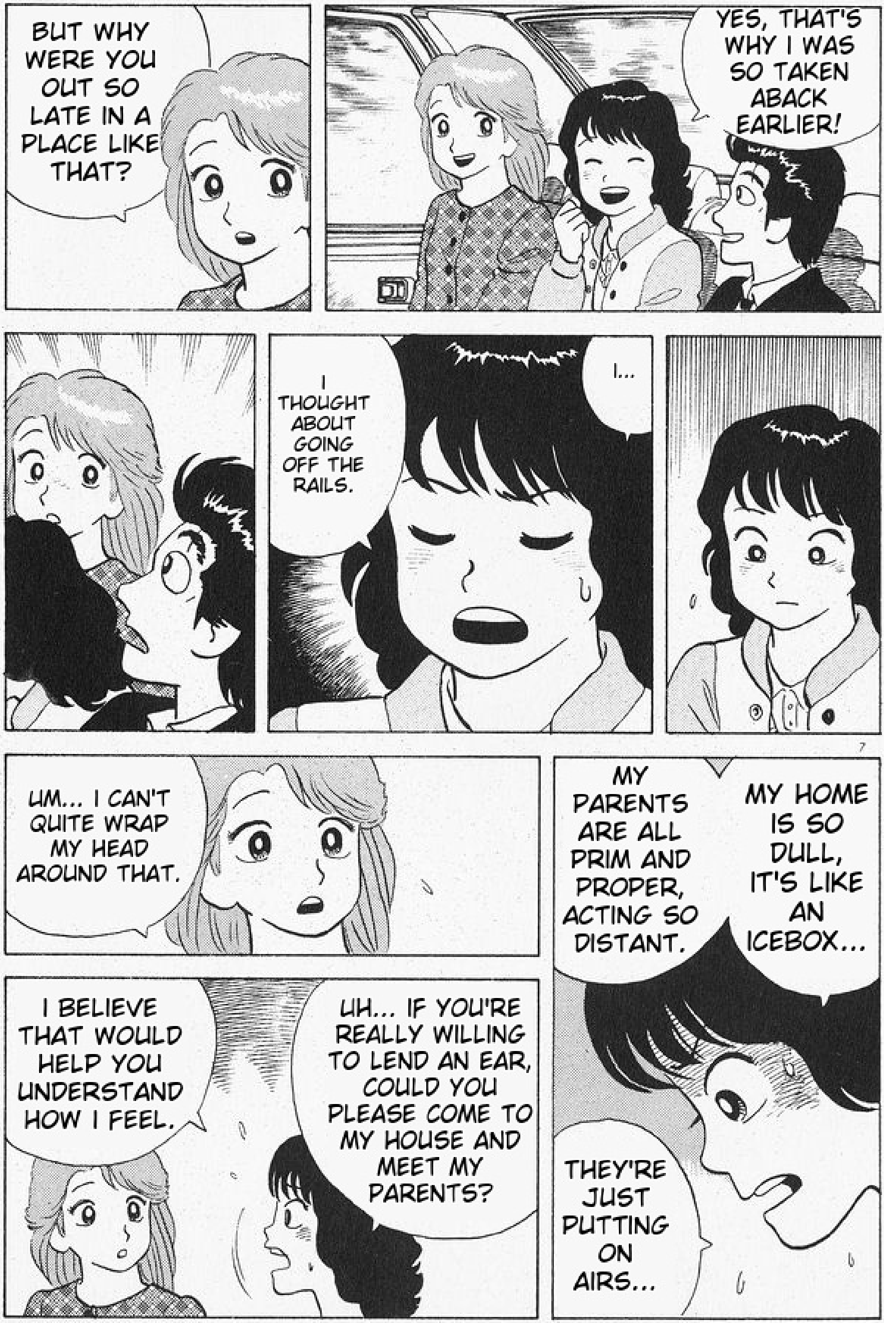

歌舞伎町一番街
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I LAST VISITED SHINJUKU.
I'M HERE FOR THE FAREWELL PARTY OF A COLLEAGUE WHO'S TRANSFERRING, BUT CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS LIVELY ATMOSPHERE EVEN AS THE NIGHT DEEPENS...?
クラブ
BAR のぞき
焼 3F
くろ 4F
モダンエル
マドンナ
サロン
のぞき 部屋
クリスタル
ビデオシアター 2F BIG BOX
シンドン 3F
つぼ八
キャバレー 3F
BAR
I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO WARM UP TO THE STREETS OF KABUKICHO IN SHINJUKU...
IT'S ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, PRICKLY, AND OH-SO-SORDID,
EVEN THE MOST PROPER FOLKS TURN INTO SOMETHING QUITE UNSEEMLY WHEN THEY STEP INTO SHINJUKU!
OH COME NOW, THAT'S JUST A PREJUDICE.
SHINJUKU'S KABUKICHO IS A TOWN OF THE PEOPLE, A MARVELOUS PLACE THAT OFFERS RESPITE TO THE WORKING SOULS.
ISN'T THIS VIBRANT CHAOS WHAT MAKES IT SO GREAT?!

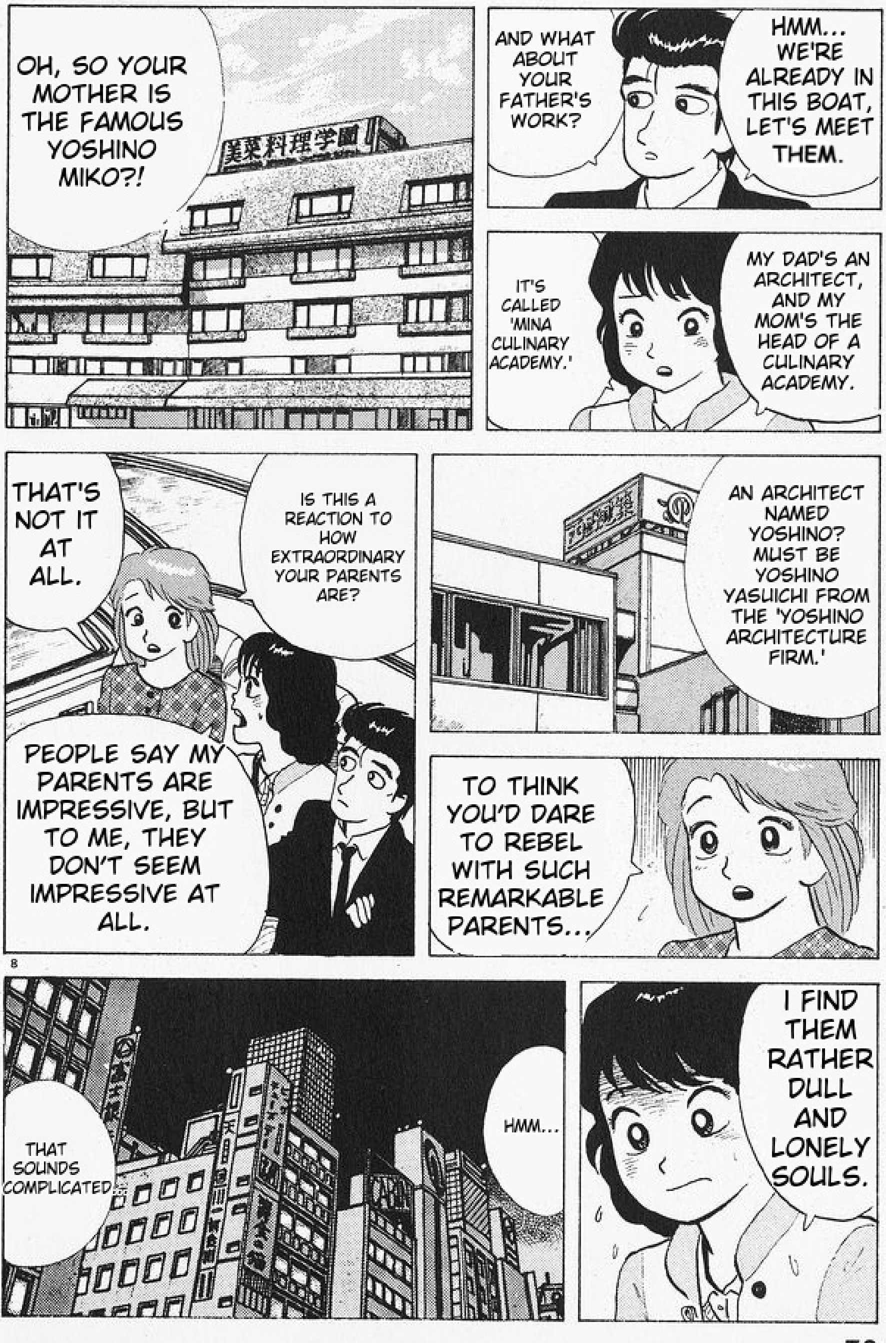

I'M SURPRISED TO SEE SUCH A CLASSY SIDE TO YOU, YAMAOKA!
DON'T YOU DARE UNDERESTIMATE ME! I'M TRULY REFINED, YOU KNOW!
AHA... I SEE NOW!
YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME IN SHINJUKU, HAVEN'T YOU?!
GETTING DUMPED BY A GIRL, OR GETTING CAUGHT BY THE COPS WHILE DRUNK...
WELL, IT'S POSSIBLE YOU MIGHT HAVE DINED AND DASHED!
DON'T MESS WITH ME LIKE THAT!! I'M NOT SOME LOSER!
ゲーム★センター
TOKYO
GAME PLAZA
GAME in TOKYO
NEW GAME
入荷!!
GAME TOKYO
GAME PARADISE
THAT GIRL, OUT AT THIS HOUR...
SHE LOOKS LIKE A KID...
SHE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE SOME DELINQUINT, THOUGH.

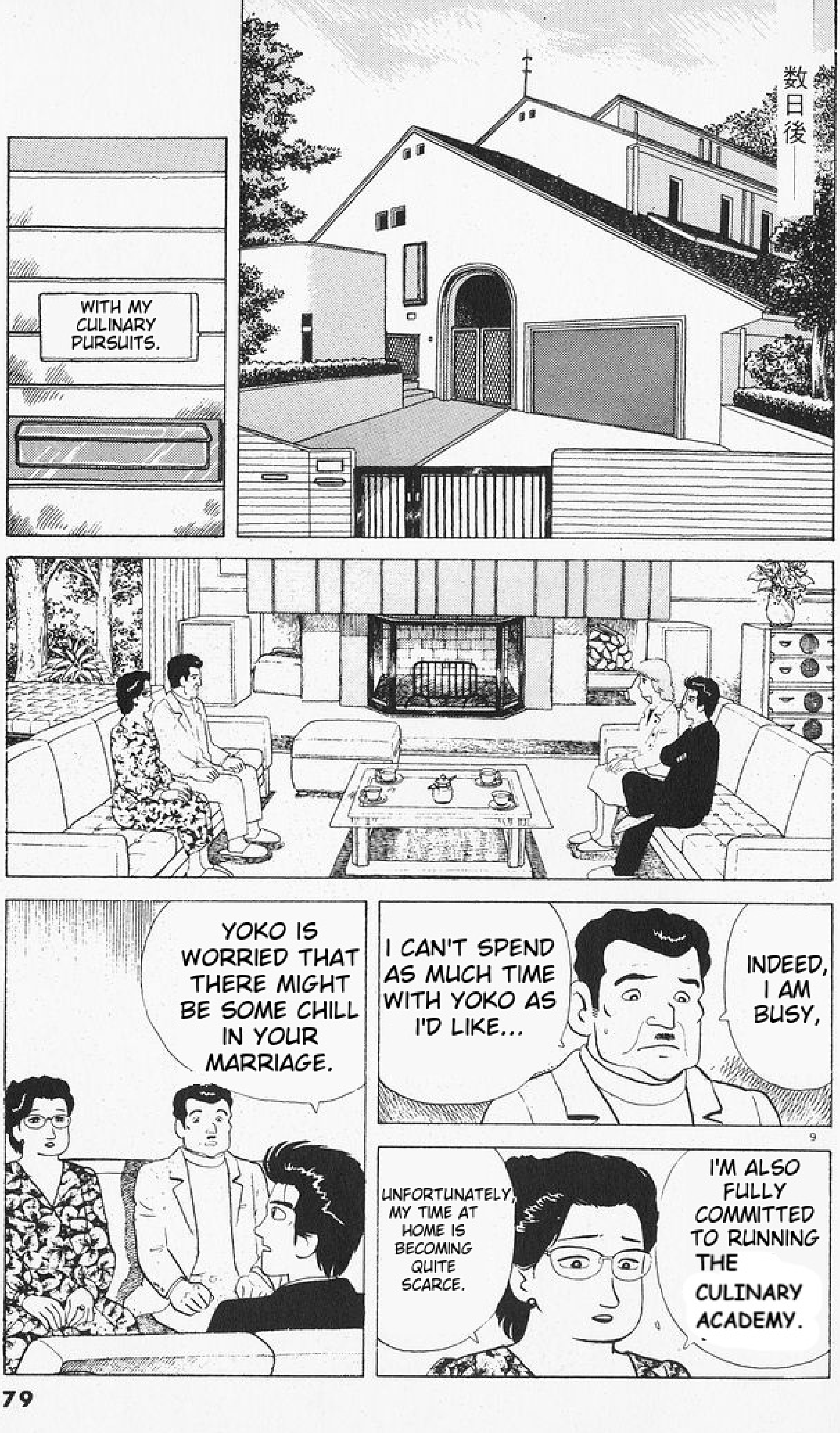

HEH HEH, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, GIRLFRIEND?
HOW ABOUT IT? LET'S HIT UP SOMEWHERE FUN!
WE'RE KIND OF A BIG DEAL AROUND HERE, I CAN TAKE YOU ANYWHERE YOU WANT!!
NO, I...
WHOA, WHOA, ARE YOU TRYING TO RUN AWAY?!
NO, STOP IT!!
HEY! SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, YOKO!
COME ON, LET'S GET MOVING!

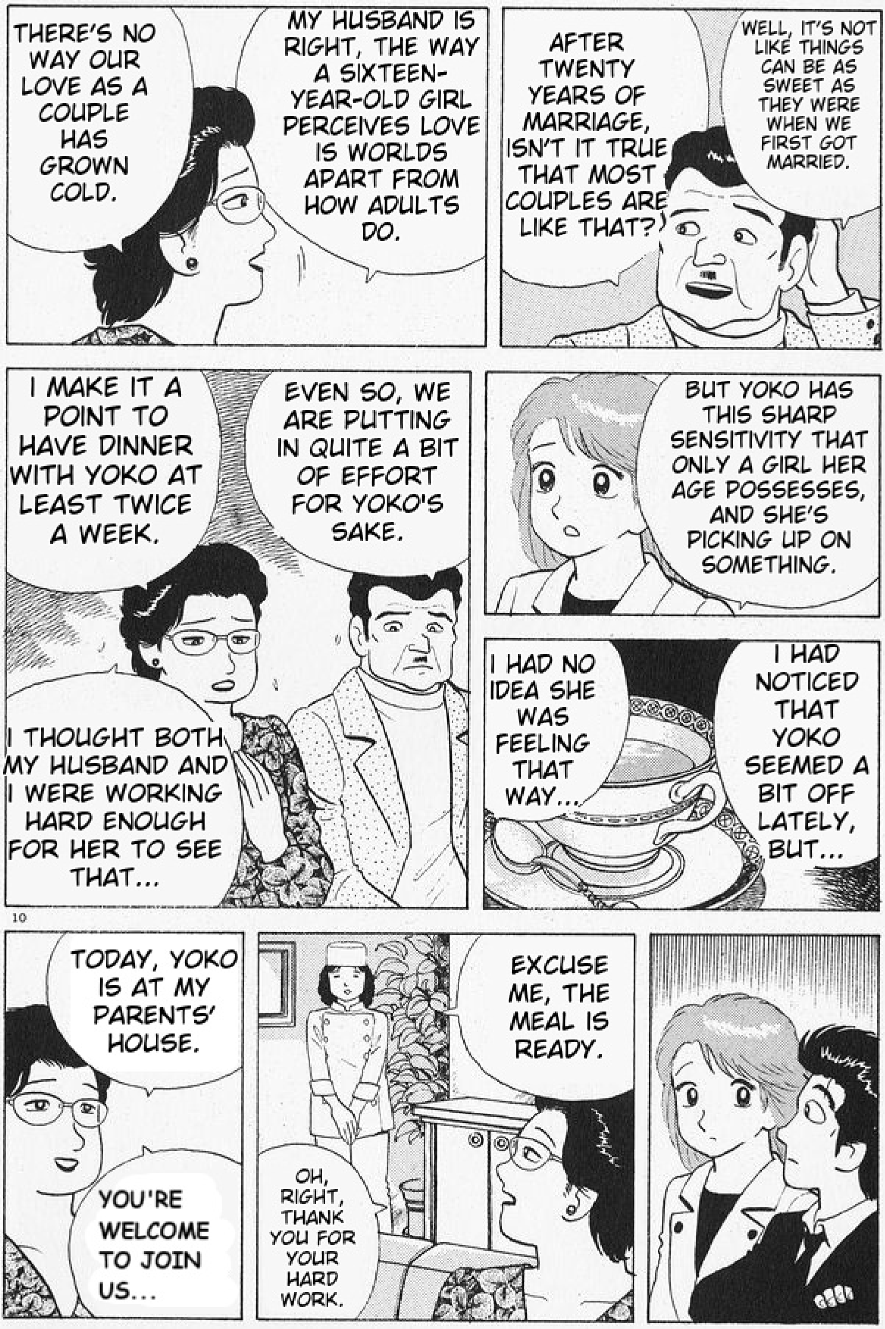

WHAT THE HECK IS YOUR PROBLEM?!
STOP PLAYING DUMB WITH ME!
WOULD YOU GUYS LIKE TO JOIN US? IT'LL BE FUN!
COME ON, I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT! AND THOSE THREE ARE YOKO'S SENIORS!
I'VE GOT TO ENTERTAIN THOSE THREE WHO'VE BEEN LOOKING AFTER YOKO, BUT THEY'VE GOT A NASTY DRINKING HABIT, YOU KNOW?
ONCE THEY START, THEY PICK FIGHTS WITH ANYONE!
THAT'S WHY WE ALWAYS END UP NEEDING A COP AT THE END OF THE NIGHT!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
YOU GUYS LOOK TOUGH, SO COME ON, JOIN ME TONIGHT!
シラ---
NO WAY! I'M NOT SIGNING UP FOR ANY EXTRA BAGGAGE!
UGH, FORGET IT, I'M OUT!

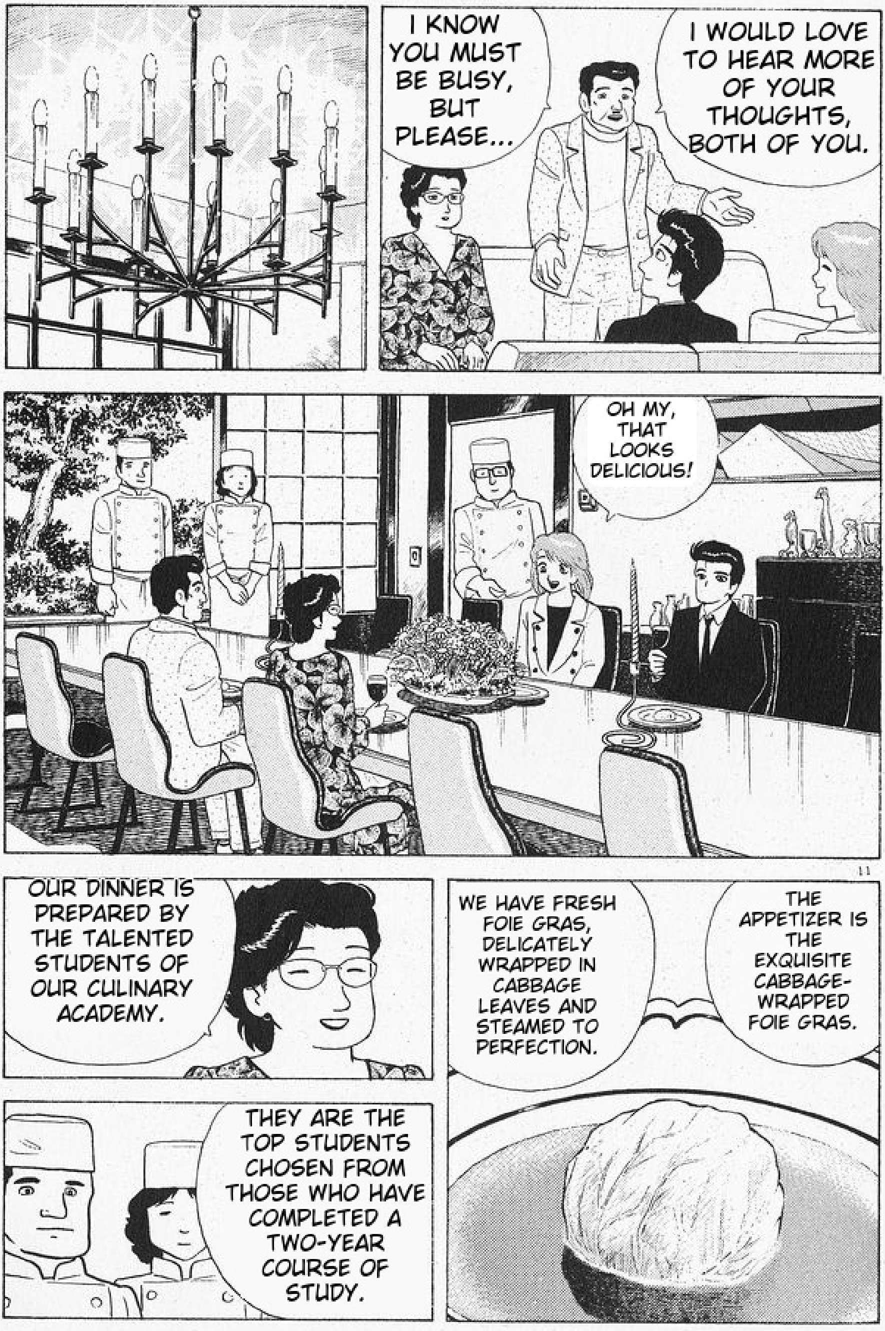

THAT WAS CLOSE... WASN'T IT?!
YOU REALLY MANAGED TO SEND THEM PACKING, DIDN'T YOU?!
ヒッ
I WAS TERRIFIED!!
I WAS SO SCARED, YOU KNOW?!
DON'T WORRY!
EVERYTHING'S FINE NOW.
OH REALLY? IS YOUR NAME YOKO FOR REAL?!
I JUST BLURTED OUT NONSENSE!

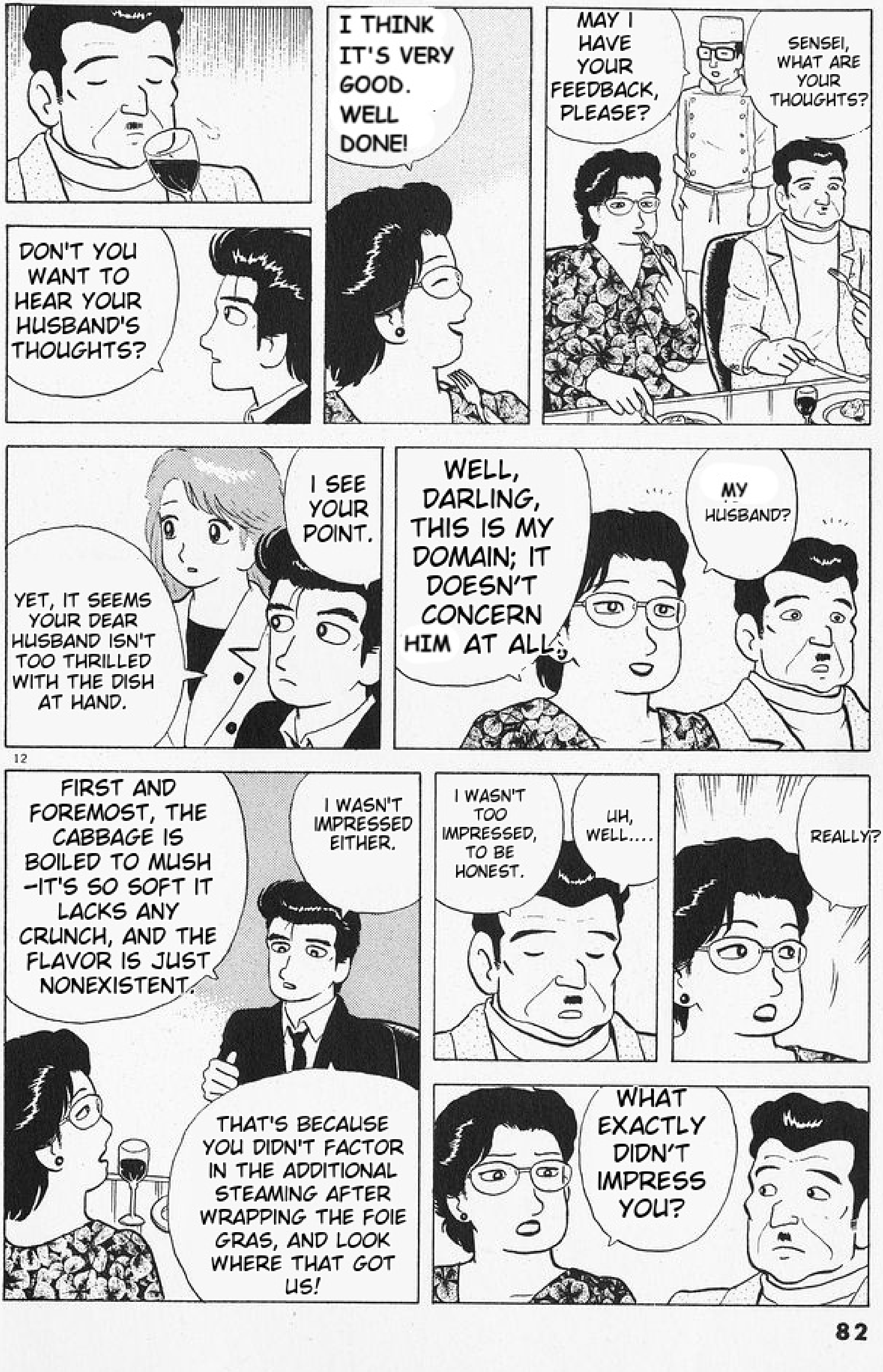

YES, THAT'S WHY I WAS SO TAKEN ABACK EARLIER!
BUT WHY WERE YOU OUT SO LATE IN A PLACE LIKE THAT?
I...
I THOUGHT ABOUT GOING OFF THE RAILS.
MY HOME IS SO DULL, IT'S LIKE AN ICEBOX...
MY PARENTS ARE ALL PRIM AND PROPER, ACTING SO DISTANT.
THEY'RE JUST PUTTING ON AIRS...
UM... I CAN'T QUITE WRAP MY HEAD AROUND THAT.
UH... IF YOU'RE REALLY WILLING TO LEND AN EAR, COULD YOU PLEASE COME TO MY HOUSE AND MEET MY PARENTS?
I BELIEVE THAT WOULD HELP YOU UNDERSTAND HOW I FEEL.

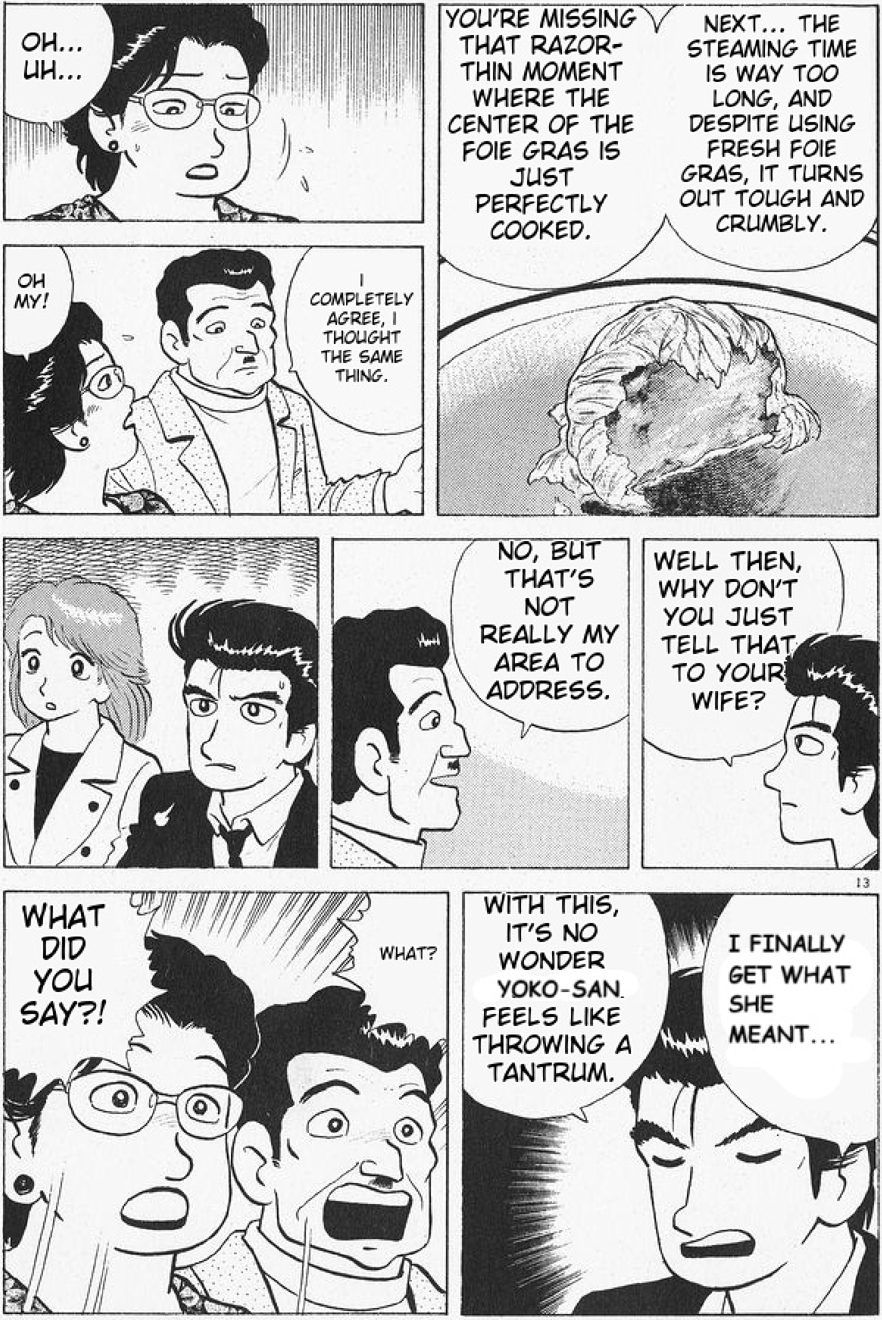

HMM... WE'RE ALREADY IN THIS BOAT, LET'S MEET THEM.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S WORK?
MY DAD'S AN ARCHITECT, AND MY MOM'S THE HEAD OF A CULINARY ACADEMY.
IT'S CALLED 'MINA CULINARY ACADEMY.'
美菜料理学園
OH, SO YOUR MOTHER IS THE FAMOUS YOSHINO MIKO?!
AN ARCHITECT NAMED YOSHINO? MUST BE YOSHINO YASUICHI FROM THE 'YOSHINO ARCHITECTURE FIRM.'
TO THINK YOU'D DARE TO REBEL WITH SUCH REMARKABLE PARENTS...
IS THIS A REACTION TO HOW EXTRAORDINARY YOUR PARENTS ARE?
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
PEOPLE SAY MY PARENTS ARE IMPRESSIVE, BUT TO ME, THEY DON'T SEEM IMPRESSIVE AT ALL.
I FIND THEM RATHER DULL AND LONELY SOULS.
HMM...
THAT SOUNDS COMPLICATED...

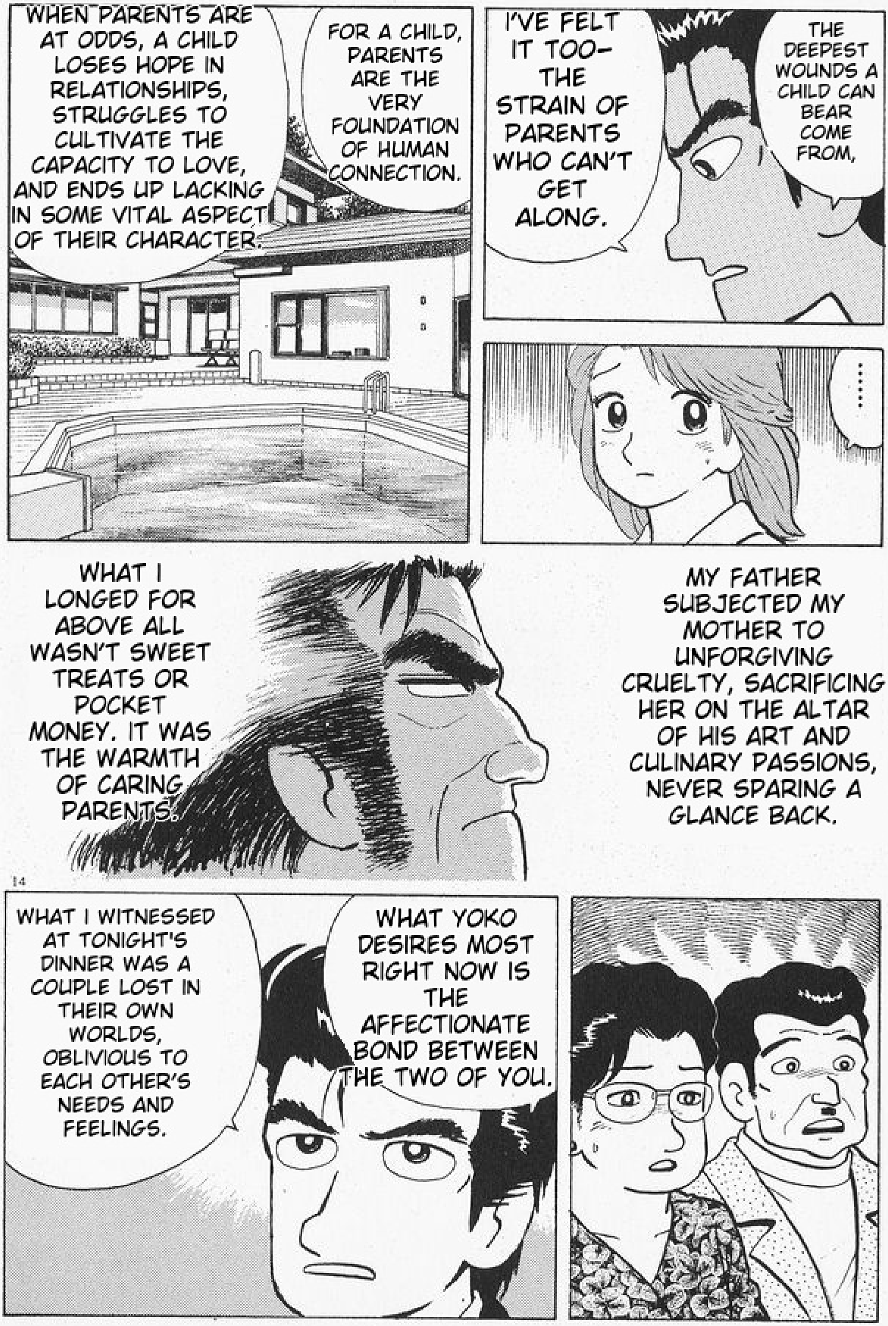

数日後──
WITH MY CULINARY PURSUITS.
INDEED, I AM BUSY,
I CAN'T SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH YOKO AS I'D LIKE...
I'M ALSO FULLY COMMITTED TO RUNNING THE CULINARY ACADEMY.
UNFORTUNATELY, MY TIME AT HOME IS BECOMING QUITE SCARCE.
YOKO IS WORRIED THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME CHILL IN YOUR MARRIAGE.

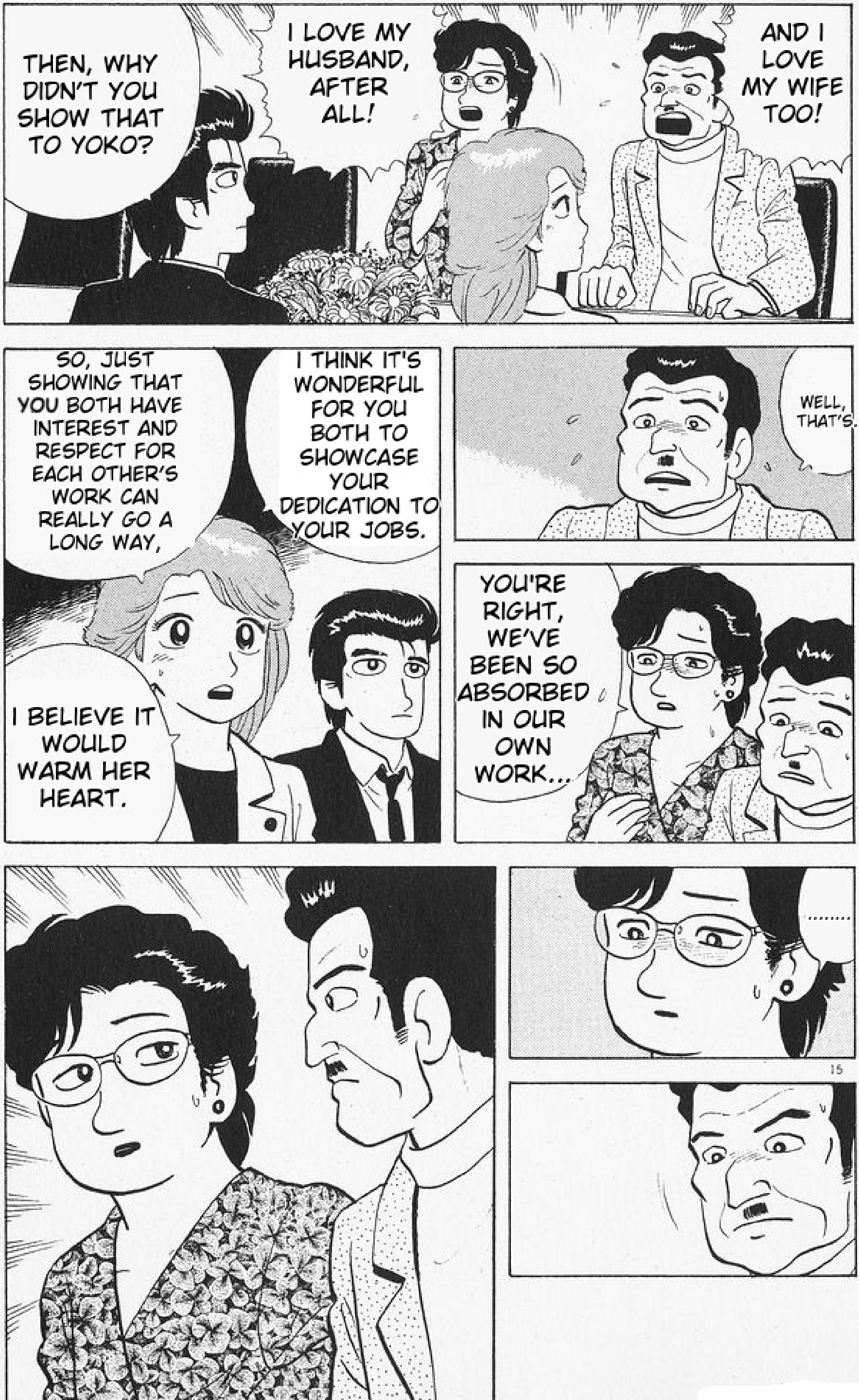

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE THINGS CAN BE AS SWEET AS THEY WERE WHEN WE FIRST GOT MARRIED.
AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF MARRIAGE, ISN'T IT TRUE THAT MOST COUPLES ARE LIKE THAT?
MY HUSBAND IS RIGHT, THE WAY A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL PERCEIVES LOVE IS WORLDS APART FROM HOW ADULTS DO.
THERE'S NO WAY OUR LOVE AS A COUPLE HAS GROWN COLD.
BUT YOKO HAS THIS SHARP SENSITIVITY THAT ONLY A GIRL HER AGE POSSESSES, AND SHE'S PICKING UP ON SOMETHING.
I HAD NOTICED THAT YOKO SEEMED A BIT OFF LATELY, BUT...
I HAD NO IDEA SHE WAS FEELING THAT WAY...
EVEN SO, WE ARE PUTTING IN QUITE A BIT OF EFFORT FOR YOKO'S SAKE.
I MAKE IT A POINT TO HAVE DINNER WITH YOKO AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK.
I THOUGHT BOTH MY HUSBAND AND I WERE WORKING HARD ENOUGH FOR HER TO SEE THAT...
10
EXCUSE ME, THE MEAL IS READY.
OH, RIGHT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
TODAY, YOKO IS AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US...

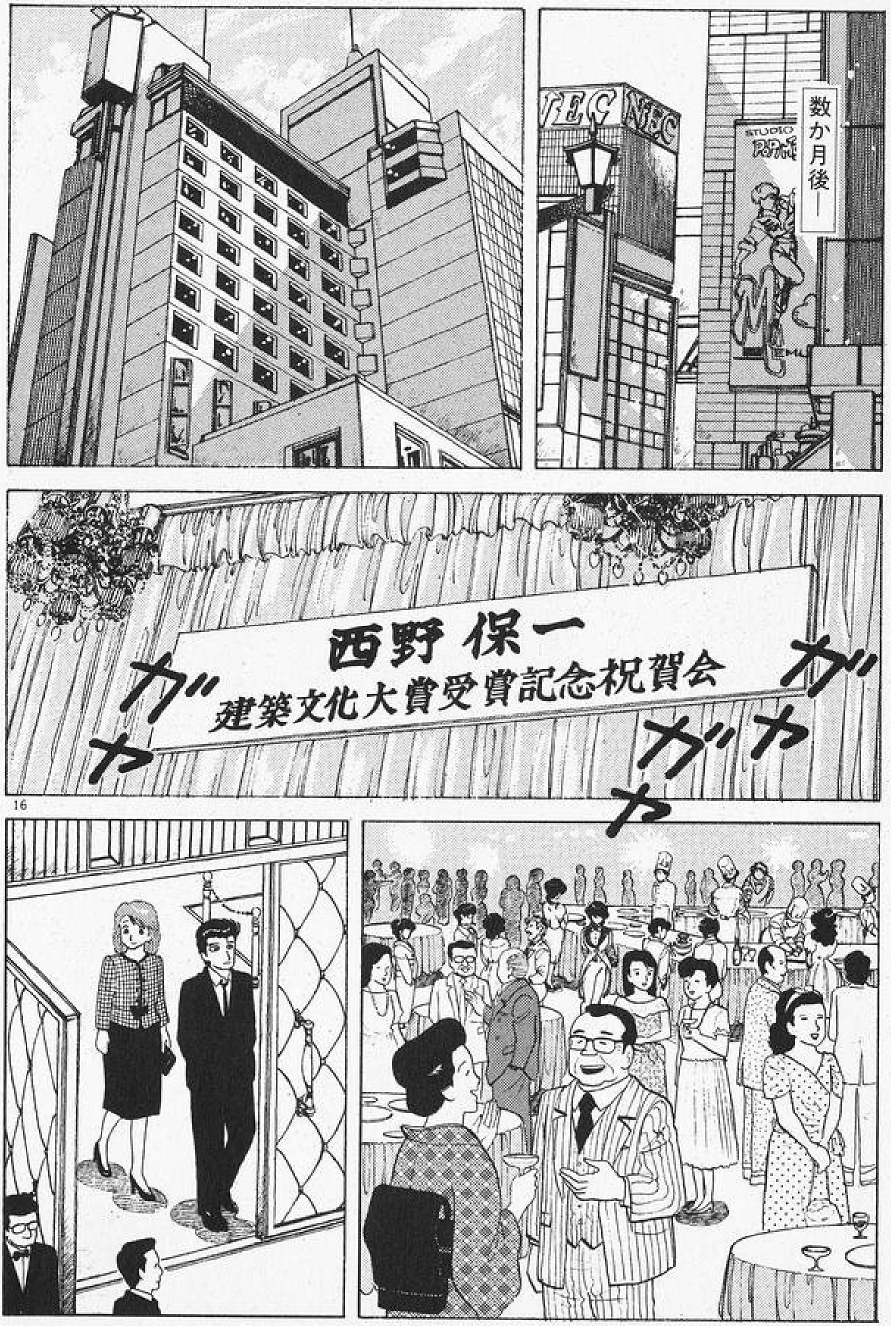

I KNOW YOU MUST BE BUSY, BUT PLEASE...
I WOULD LOVE TO HEAR MORE OF YOUR THOUGHTS, BOTH OF YOU.
OH MY, THAT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
11
OUR DINNER IS PREPARED BY THE TALENTED STUDENTS OF OUR CULINARY ACADEMY.
THEY ARE THE TOP STUDENTS CHOSEN FROM THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETED A TWO-YEAR COURSE OF STUDY.
THE APPETIZER IS THE EXQUISITE CABBAGE-WRAPPED FOIE GRAS.
WE HAVE FRESH FOIE GRAS, DELICATELY WRAPPED IN CABBAGE LEAVES AND STEAMED TO PERFECTION.


SENSEI, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?
MAY I HAVE YOUR FEEDBACK, PLEASE?
I THINK IT'S VERY GOOD. WELL DONE!
DON'T YOU WANT TO HEAR YOUR HUSBAND'S THOUGHTS?
...
MY HUSBAND?
...
WELL, DARLING, THIS IS MY DOMAIN; IT DOESN'T CONCERN HIM AT ALL.
I SEE YOUR POINT.
YET, IT SEEMS YOUR DEAR HUSBAND ISN'T TOO THRILLED WITH THE DISH AT HAND.
12
REALLY?
UH, WELL....
I WASN'T TOO IMPRESSED, TO BE HONEST.
WHAT EXACTLY DIDN'T IMPRESS YOU?
I WASN'T IMPRESSED EITHER.
FIRST AND FOREMOST, THE CABBAGE IS BOILED TO MUSH -IT'S SO SOFT IT LACKS ANY CRUNCH, AND THE FLAVOR IS JUST NONEXISTENT.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T FACTOR IN THE ADDITIONAL STEAMING AFTER WRAPPING THE FOIE GRAS, AND LOOK WHERE THAT GOT US!


OH... UH...
YOU'RE MISSING THAT RAZOR-THIN MOMENT WHERE THE CENTER OF THE FOIE GRAS IS JUST PERFECTLY COOKED.
NEXT... THE STEAMING TIME IS WAY TOO LONG, AND DESPITE USING FRESH FOIE GRAS, IT TURNS OUT TOUGH AND CRUMBLY.
OH MY!
I COMPLETELY AGREE, I THOUGHT THE SAME THING.
NO, BUT THAT'S NOT REALLY MY AREA TO ADDRESS.
WELL THEN, WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELL THAT TO YOUR WIFE?
13
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
WHAT?
WITH THIS, IT'S NO WONDER YOKO-SAN FEELS LIKE THROWING A TANTRUM.
I FINALLY GET WHAT SHE MEANT...


THE DEEPEST WOUNDS A CHILD CAN BEAR COME FROM,
I'VE FELT IT TOO– THE STRAIN OF PARENTS WHO CAN'T GET ALONG.
……
FOR A CHILD, PARENTS ARE THE VERY FOUNDATION OF HUMAN CONNECTION.
WHEN PARENTS ARE AT ODDS, A CHILD LOSES HOPE IN RELATIONSHIPS, STRUGGLES TO CULTIVATE THE CAPACITY TO LOVE, AND ENDS UP LACKING IN SOME VITAL ASPECT OF THEIR CHARACTER.
MY FATHER SUBJECTED MY MOTHER TO UNFORGIVING CRUELTY, SACRIFICING HER ON THE ALTAR OF HIS ART AND CULINARY PASSIONS, NEVER SPARING A GLANCE BACK.
WHAT I LONGED FOR ABOVE ALL WASN'T SWEET TREATS OR POCKET MONEY. IT WAS THE WARMTH OF CARING PARENTS.
WHAT YOKO DESIRES MOST RIGHT NOW IS THE AFFECTIONATE BOND BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU.
WHAT I WITNESSED AT TONIGHT'S DINNER WAS A COUPLE LOST IN THEIR OWN WORLDS, OBLIVIOUS TO EACH OTHER'S NEEDS AND FEELINGS.


I LOVE MY HUSBAND, AFTER ALL!
AND I LOVE MY WIFE TOO!
THEN, WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW THAT TO YOKO?
WELL, THAT'S...;
YOU'RE RIGHT, WE'VE BEEN SO ABSORBED IN OUR OWN WORK...
I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL FOR YOU BOTH TO SHOWCASE YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUR JOBS.
SO, JUST SHOWING THAT YOU BOTH HAVE INTEREST AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S WORK CAN REALLY GO A LONG WAY,
I BELIEVE IT WOULD WARM HER HEART.
....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西野 保一
建築文化大賞受賞記念祝賀会
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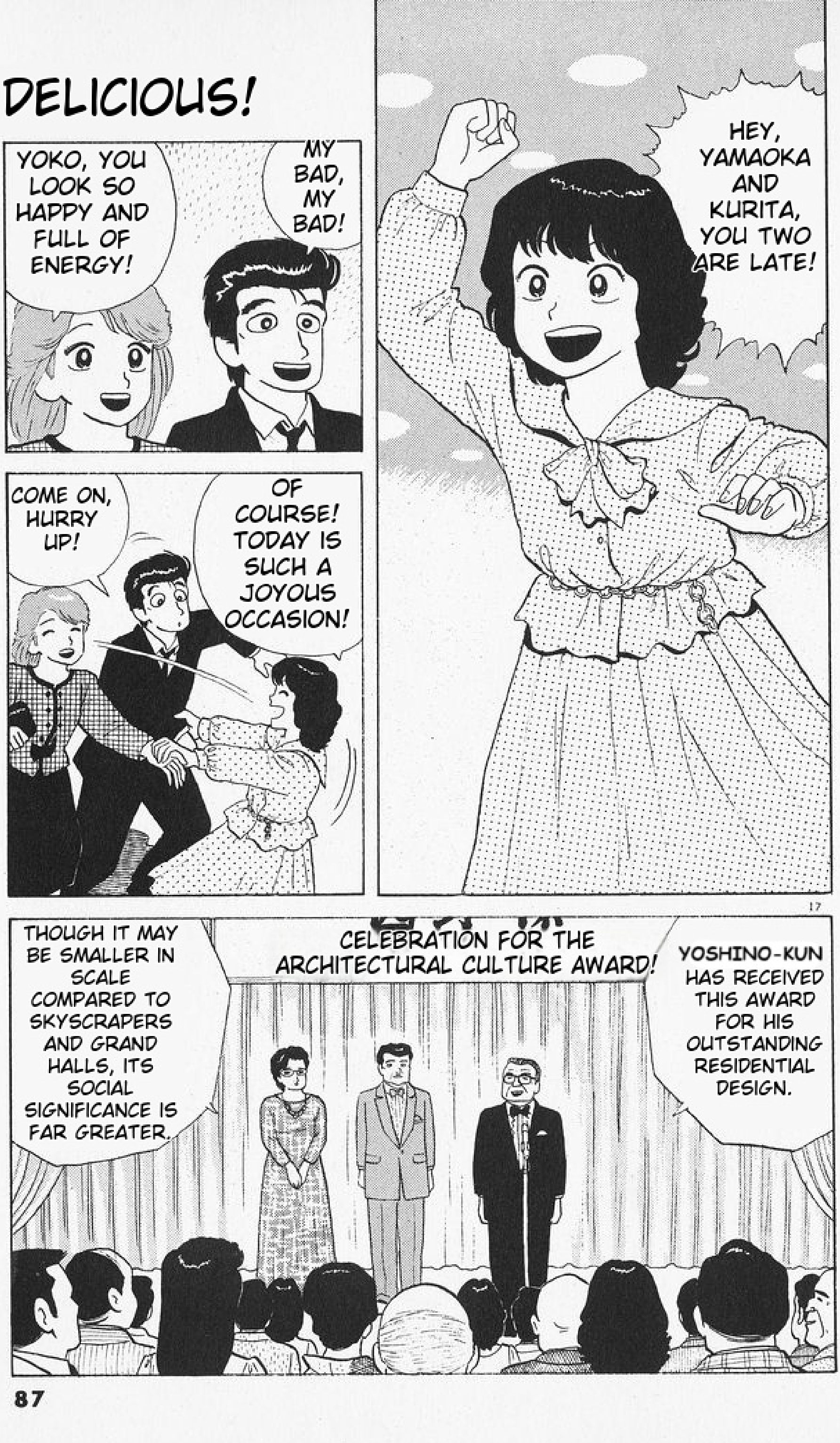
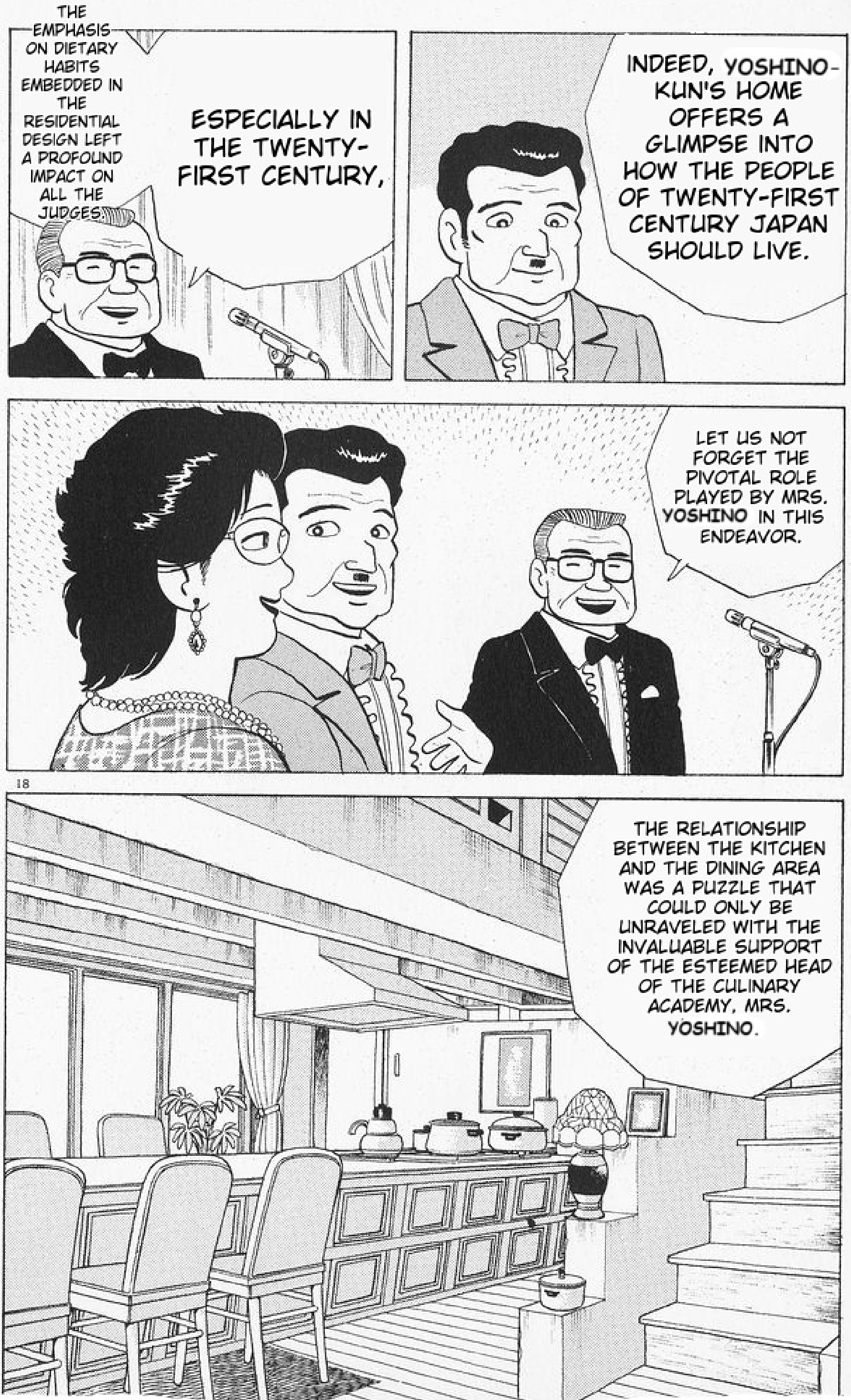
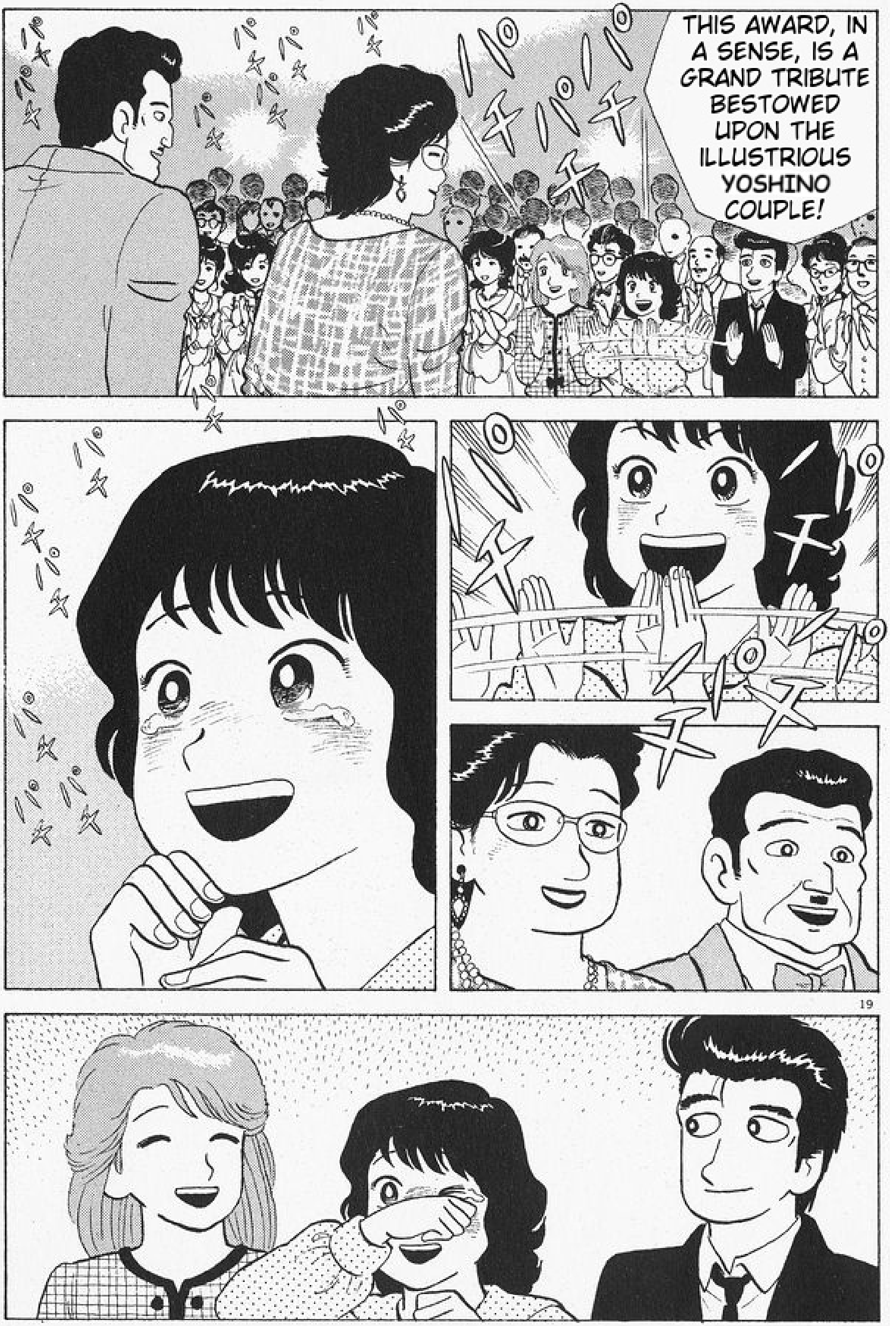
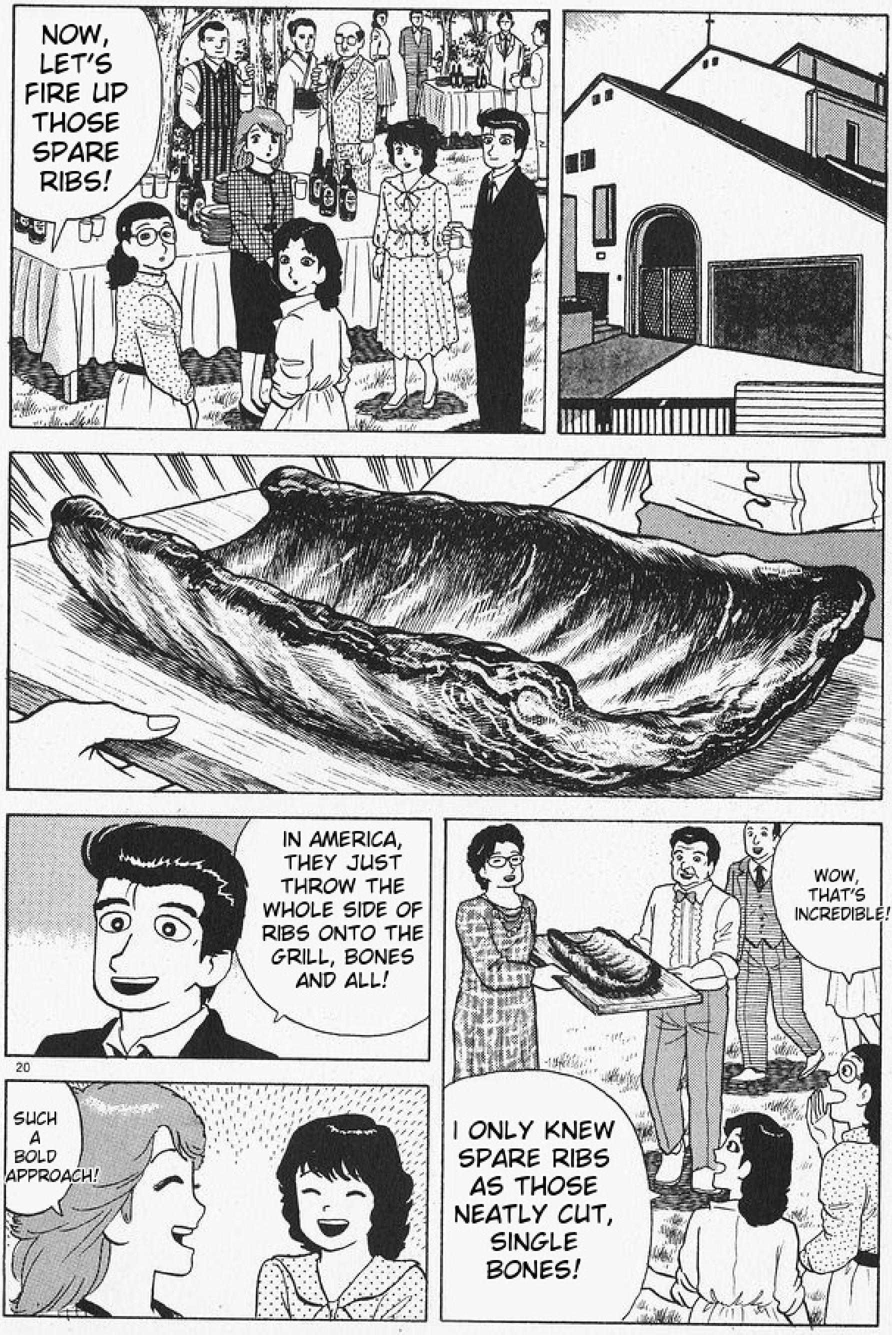
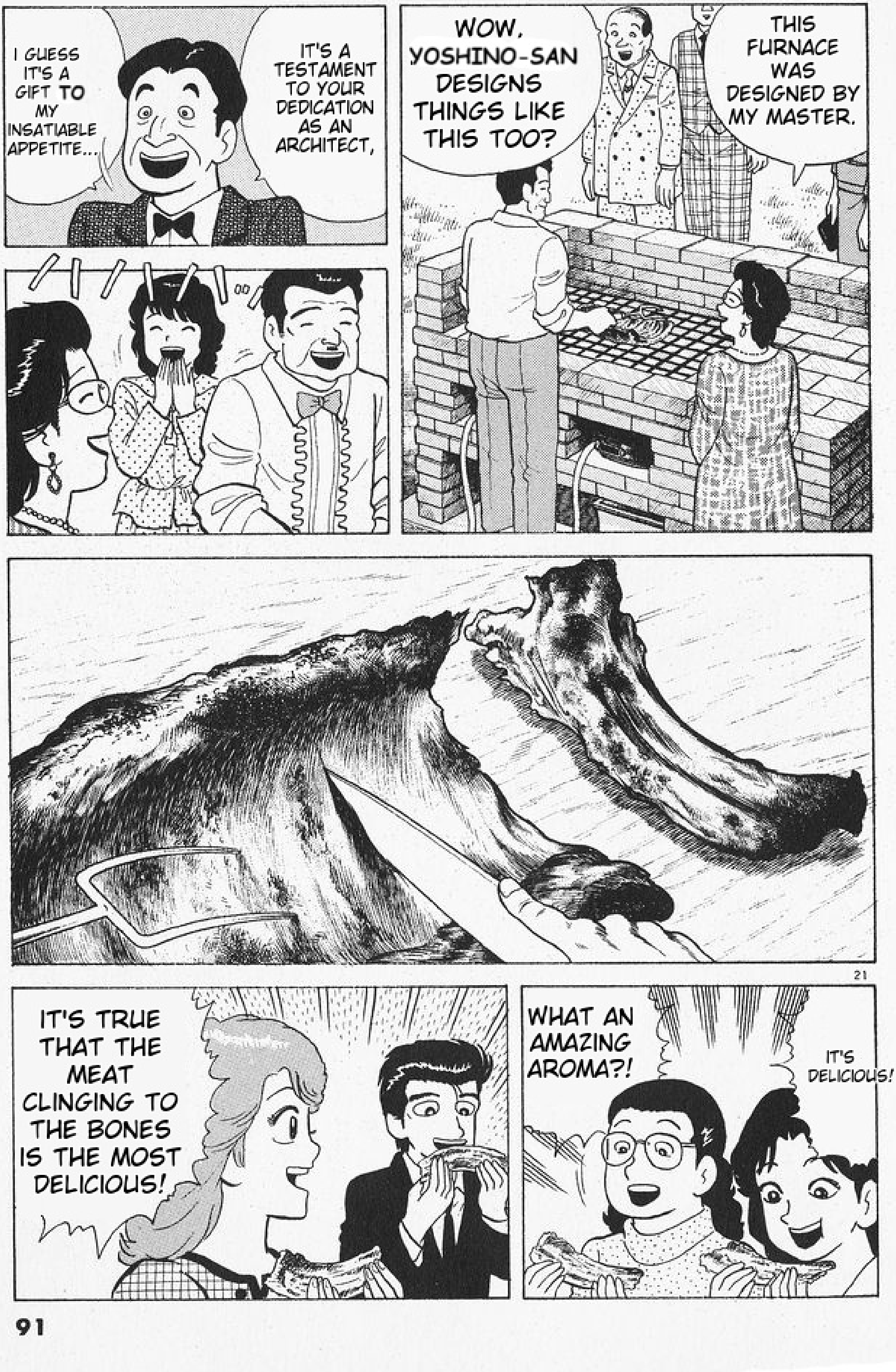
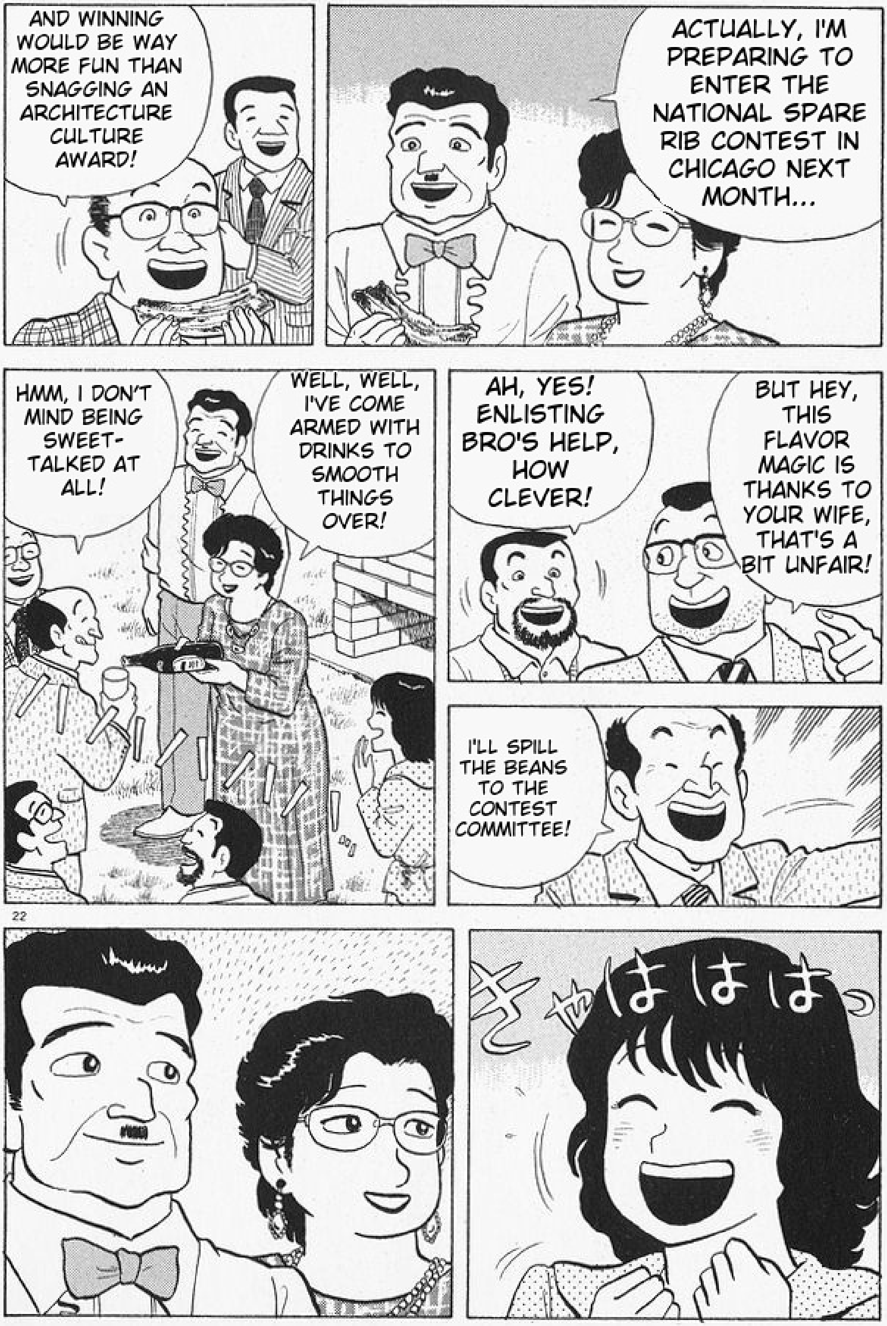

HEY, YAMAOKA AND KURITA, YOU TWO ARE LATE!
MY BAD, MY BAD!
YOKO, YOU LOOK SO HAPPY AND FULL OF ENERGY!
OF COURSE! TODAY IS SUCH A JOYOUS OCCASION!
COME ON, HURRY UP!
17
YOSHINO-KUN HAS RECEIVED THIS AWARD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING RESIDENTIAL DESIGN.
CELEBRATION FOR THE ARCHITECTURAL CULTURE AWARD!
THOUGH IT MAY BE SMALLER IN SCALE COMPARED TO SKYSCRAPERS AND GRAND HALLS, ITS SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE IS FAR GREATER.


THE EMPHASIS ON DIETARY HABITS EMBEDDED IN THE RESIDENTIAL DESIGN LEFT A PROFOUND IMPACT ON ALL THE JUDGES.
ESPECIALLY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY,
INDEED, YOSHINO-KUN'S HOME OFFERS A GLIMPSE INTO HOW THE PEOPLE OF TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY JAPAN SHOULD LIVE.
LET US NOT FORGET THE PIVOTAL ROLE PLAYED BY MRS. YOSHINO IN THIS ENDEAVOR.
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND THE DINING AREA WAS A PUZZLE THAT COULD ONLY BE UNRAVELED WITH THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT OF THE ESTEEMED HEAD OF THE CULINARY ACADEMY, MRS. YOSHINO.


THIS AWARD, IN A SENSE, IS A GRAND TRIBUTE BESTOWED UPON THE ILLUSTRIOUS YOSHINO COUPLE!
パチパチ
19


NOW, LET'S FIRE UP THOSE SPARE RIBS!
IN AMERICA, THEY JUST THROW THE WHOLE SIDE OF RIBS ONTO THE GRILL, BONES AND ALL!
20
WOW, THAT'S INCREDIBLE!
SUCH A BOLD APPROACH!
I ONLY KNEW SPARE RIBS AS THOSE NEATLY CUT, SINGLE BONES!


THIS FURNACE WAS DESIGNED BY MY MASTER.
WOW. YOSHINO-SAN DESIGNS THINGS LIKE THIS TOO?
IT'S A TESTAMENT TO YOUR DEDICATION AS AN ARCHITECT,
I GUESS IT'S A GIFT TO MY INSATIABLE APPETITE...
WHAT AN AMAZING AROMA?!
IT'S DELICIOUS!
IT'S TRUE THAT THE MEAT CLINGING TO THE BONES IS THE MOST DELICIOUS!


ACTUALLY, I'M PREPARING TO ENTER THE NATIONAL SPARE RIB CONTEST IN CHICAGO NEXT MONTH...
AND WINNING WOULD BE WAY MORE FUN THAN SNAGGING AN ARCHITECTURE CULTURE AWARD!
BUT HEY, THIS FLAVOR MAGIC IS THANKS TO YOUR WIFE, THAT'S A BIT UNFAIR!
AH, YES! ENLISTING BRO'S HELP, HOW CLEVER!
I'LL SPILL THE BEANS TO THE CONTEST COMMITTEE!
WELL, WELL, I'VE COME ARMED WITH DRINKS TO SMOOTH THINGS OVER!
HMM, I DON'T MIND BEING SWEET-TALKED AT ALL!
22
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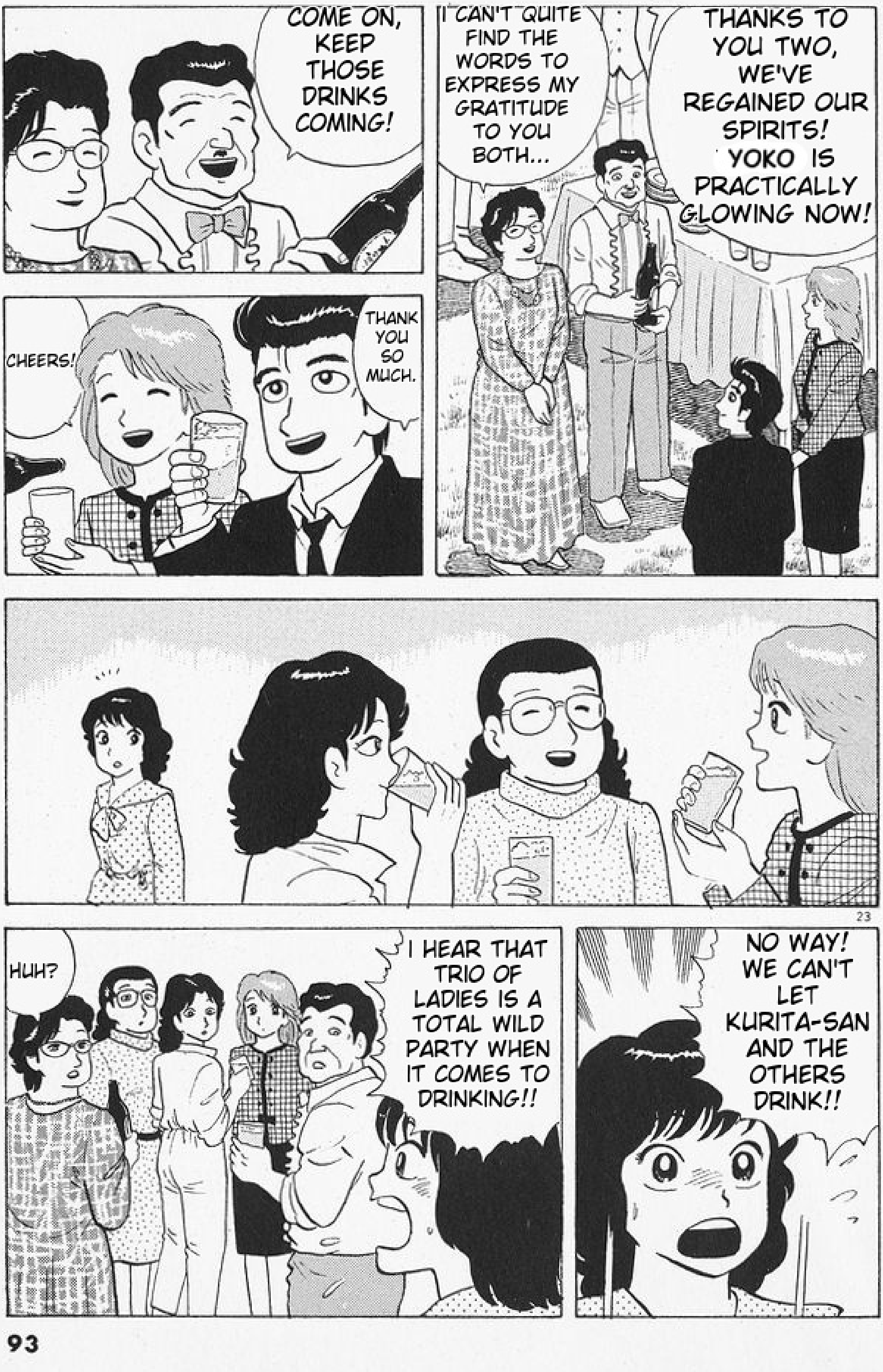
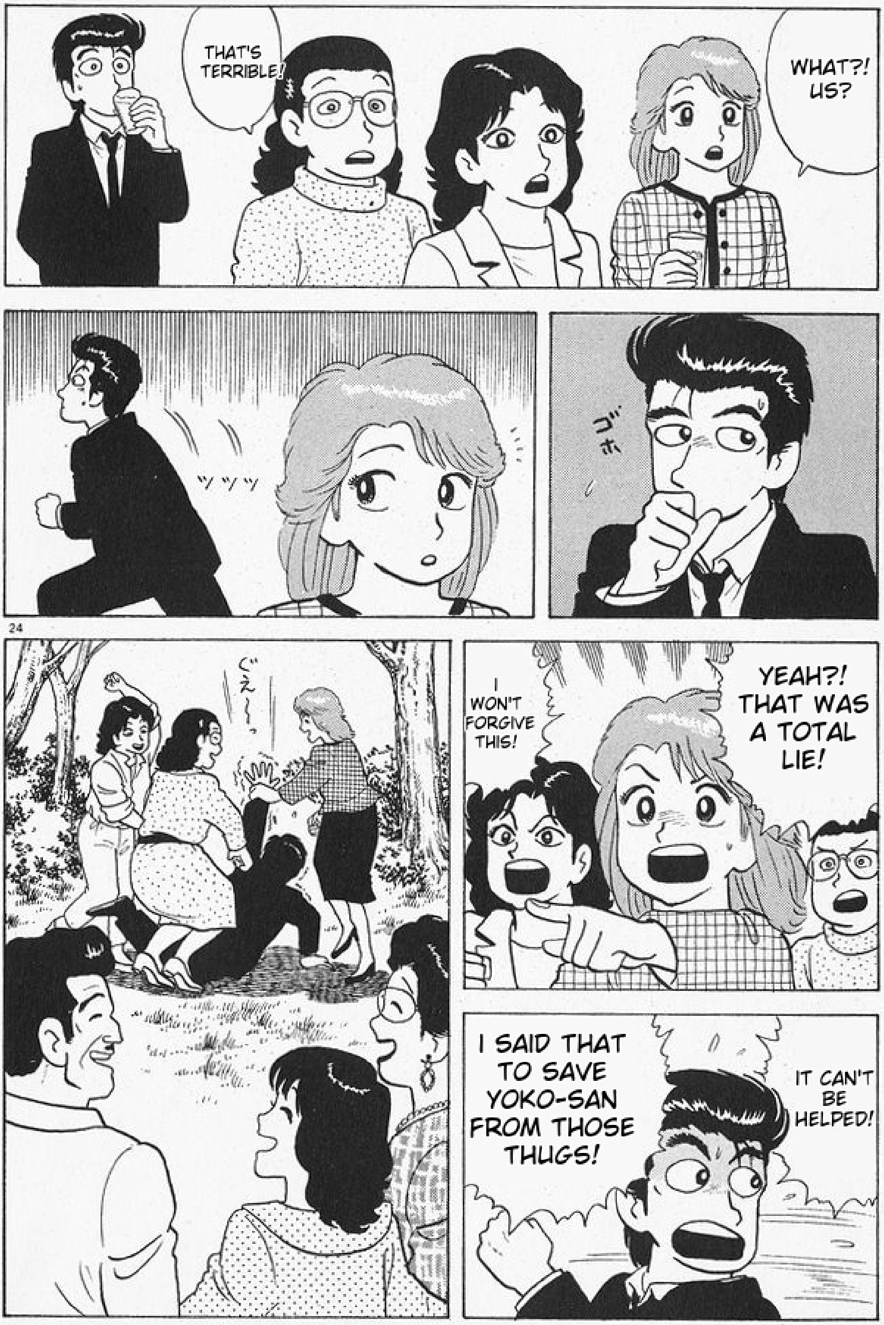

COME ON, KEEP THOSE DRINKS COMING!
CHEERS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I CAN'T QUITE FIND THE WORDS TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO YOU BOTH...
THANKS TO YOU TWO, WE'VE REGAINED OUR SPIRITS! YOKO IS PRACTICALLY GLOWING NOW!
HUH?
I HEAR THAT TRIO OF LADIES IS A TOTAL WILD PARTY WHEN IT COMES TO DRINKING!!
NO WAY! WE CAN'T LET KURITA-SAN AND THE OTHERS DRINK!!


WHAT?! US?
THAT'S TERRIBLE!
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ツツツ
YEAH?! THAT WAS A TOTAL LIE!
I WON'T FORGIVE THIS!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED!
I SAID THAT TO SAVE YOKO-SAN FROM THOSE THUGS!
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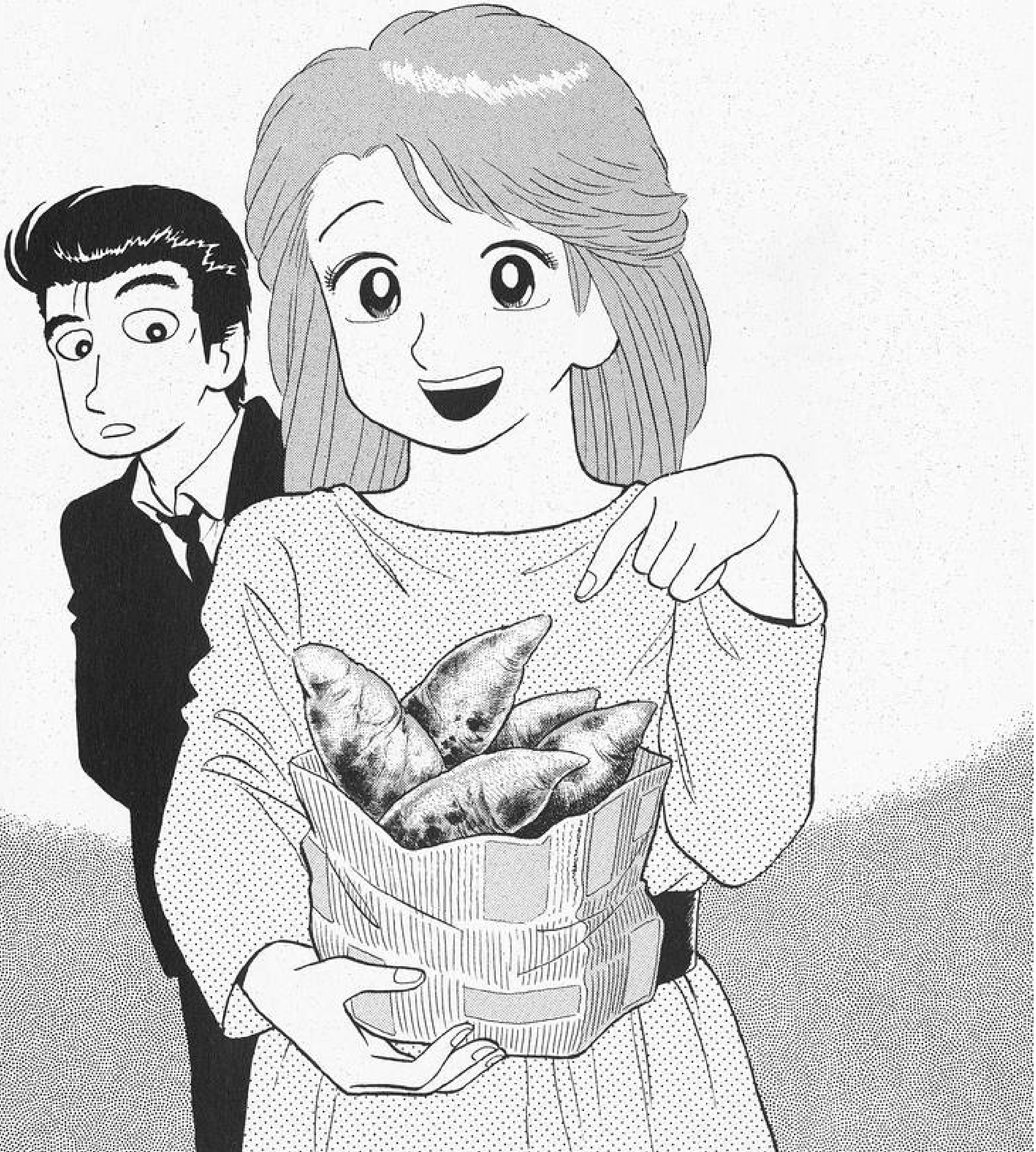
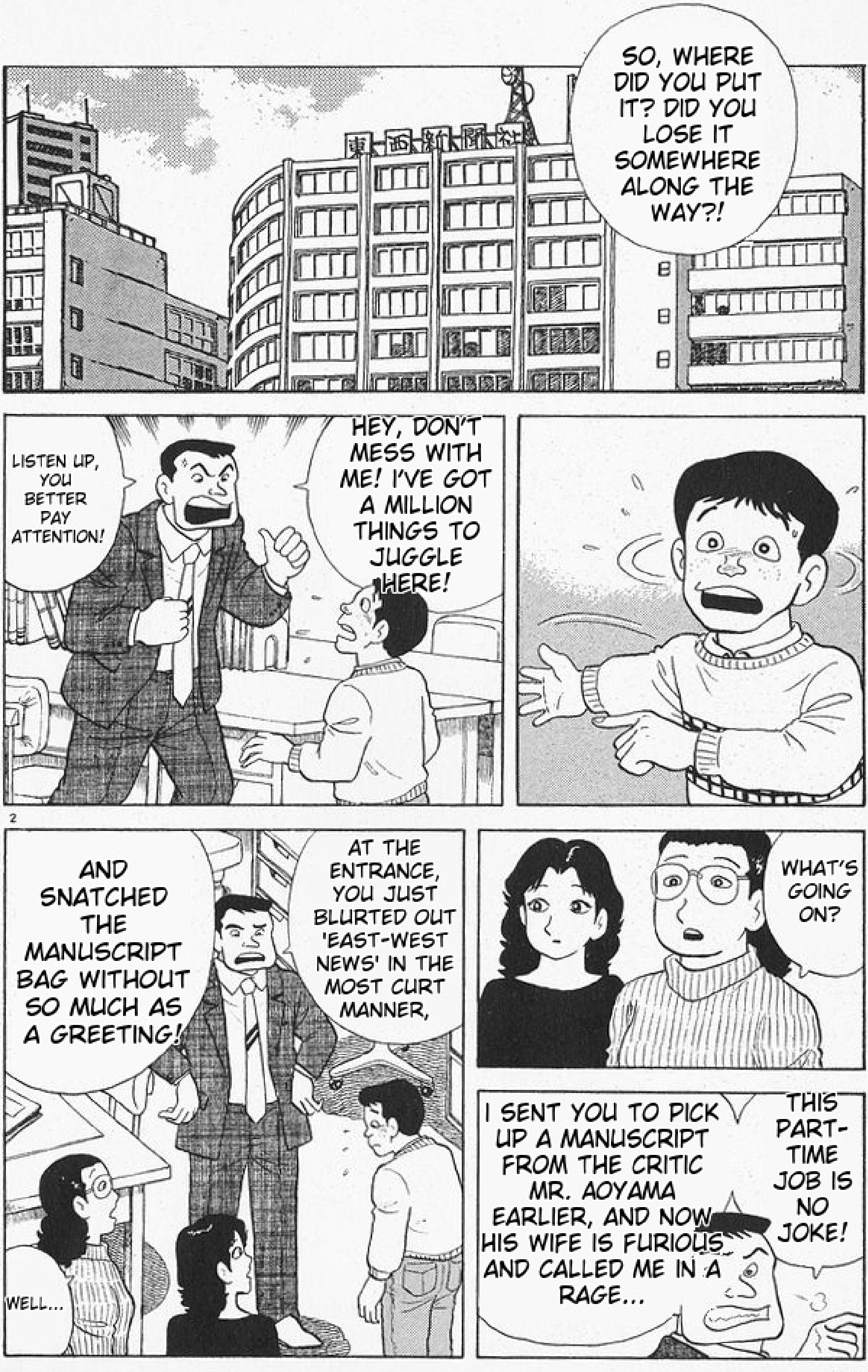
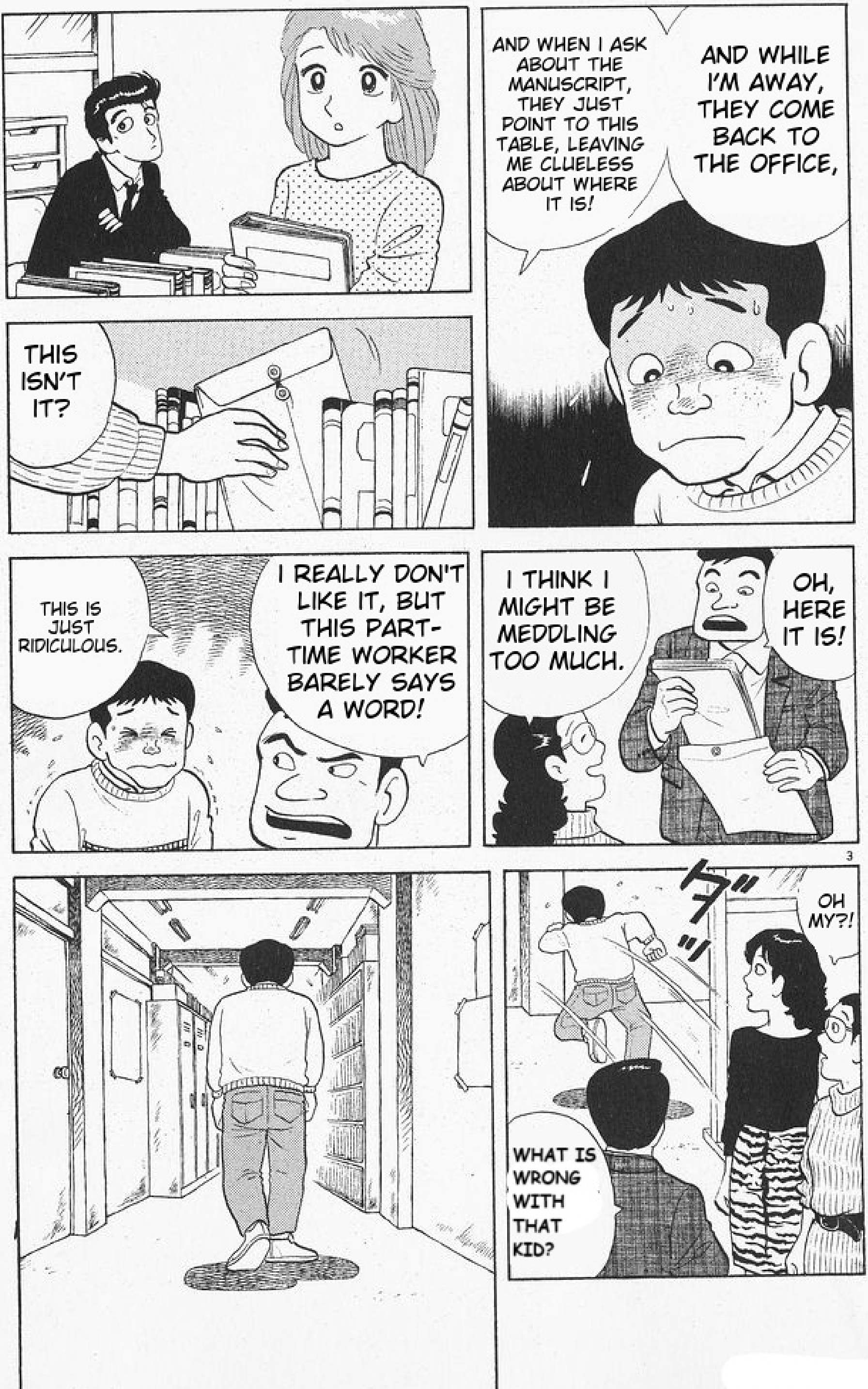
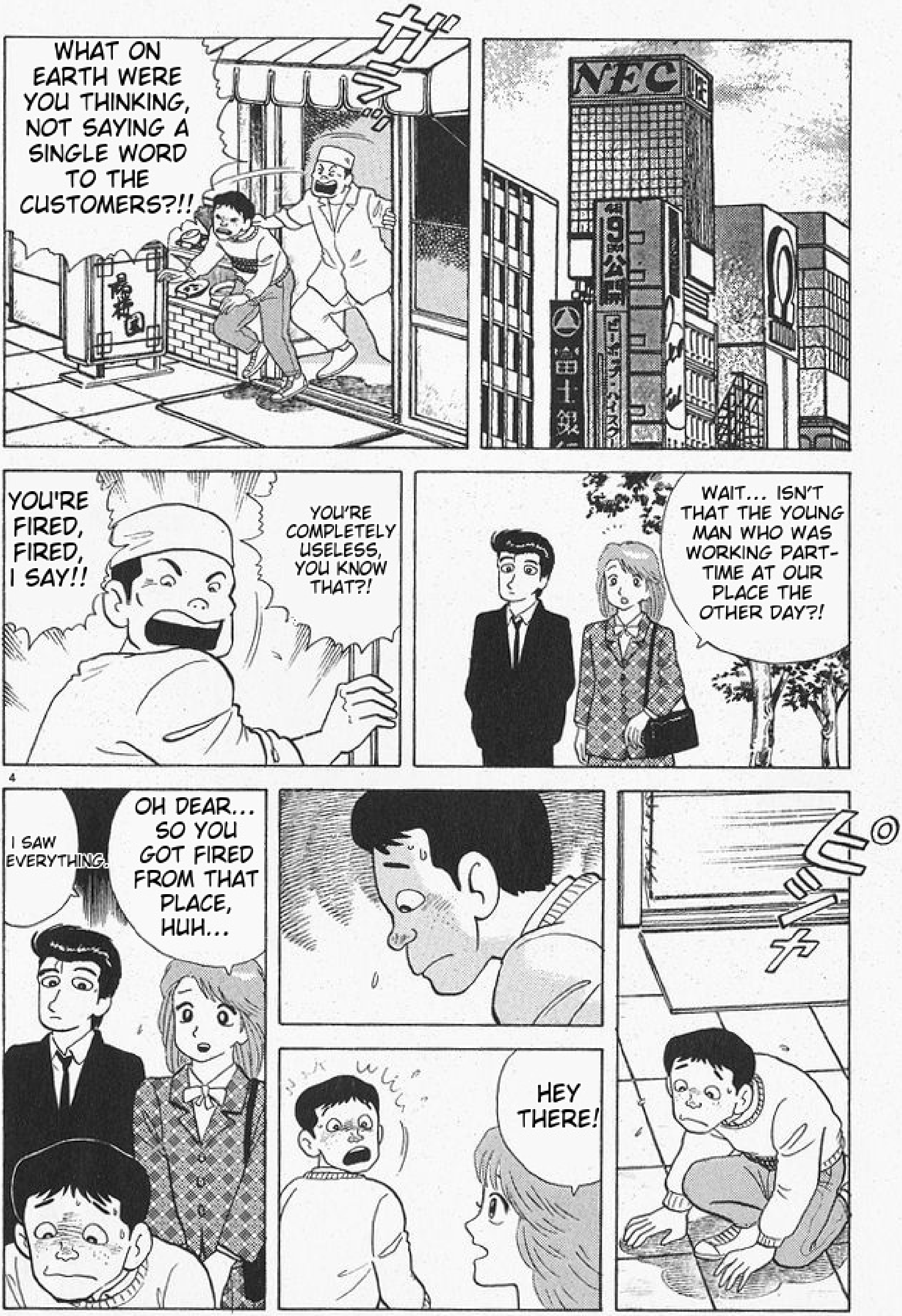
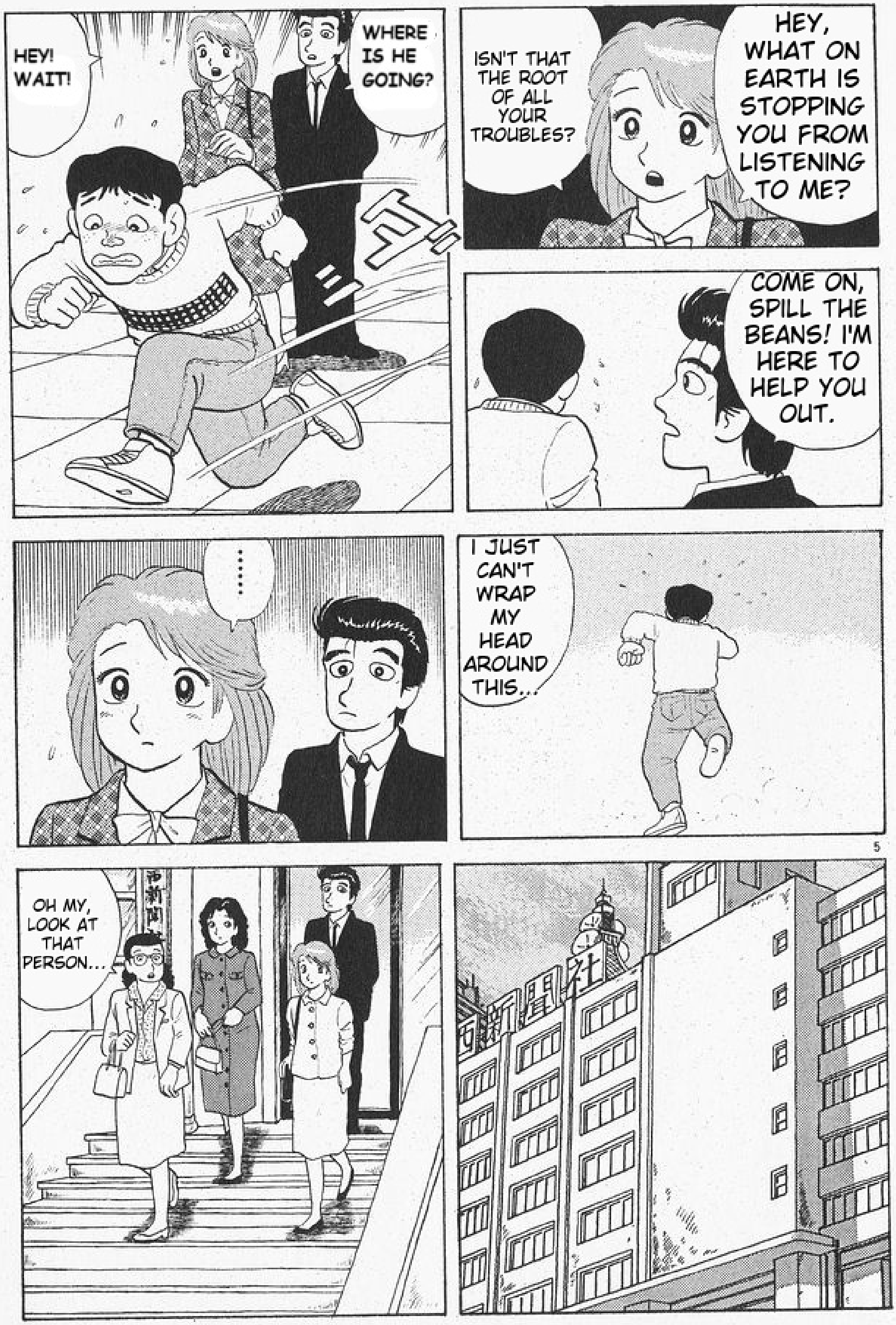
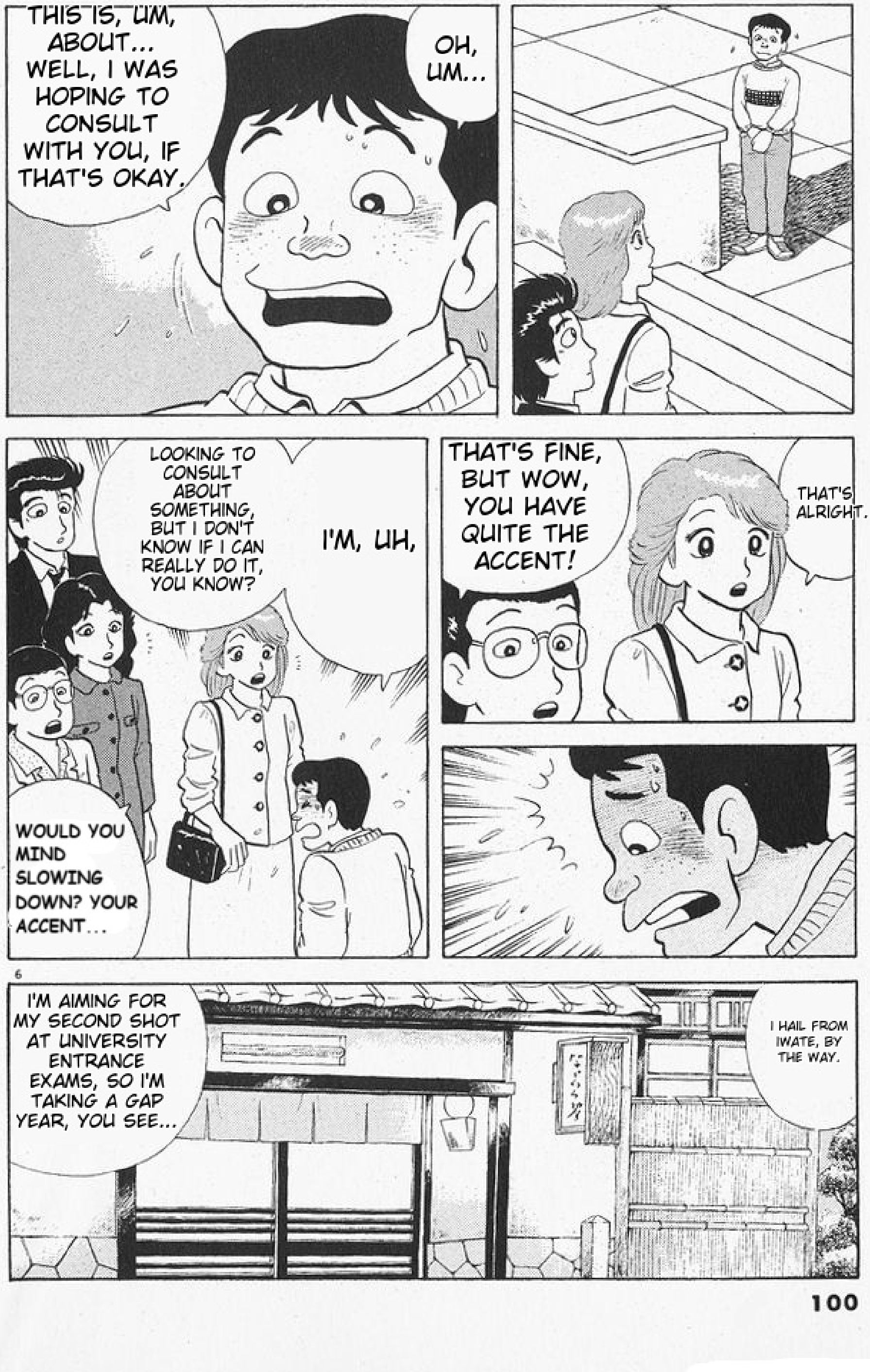


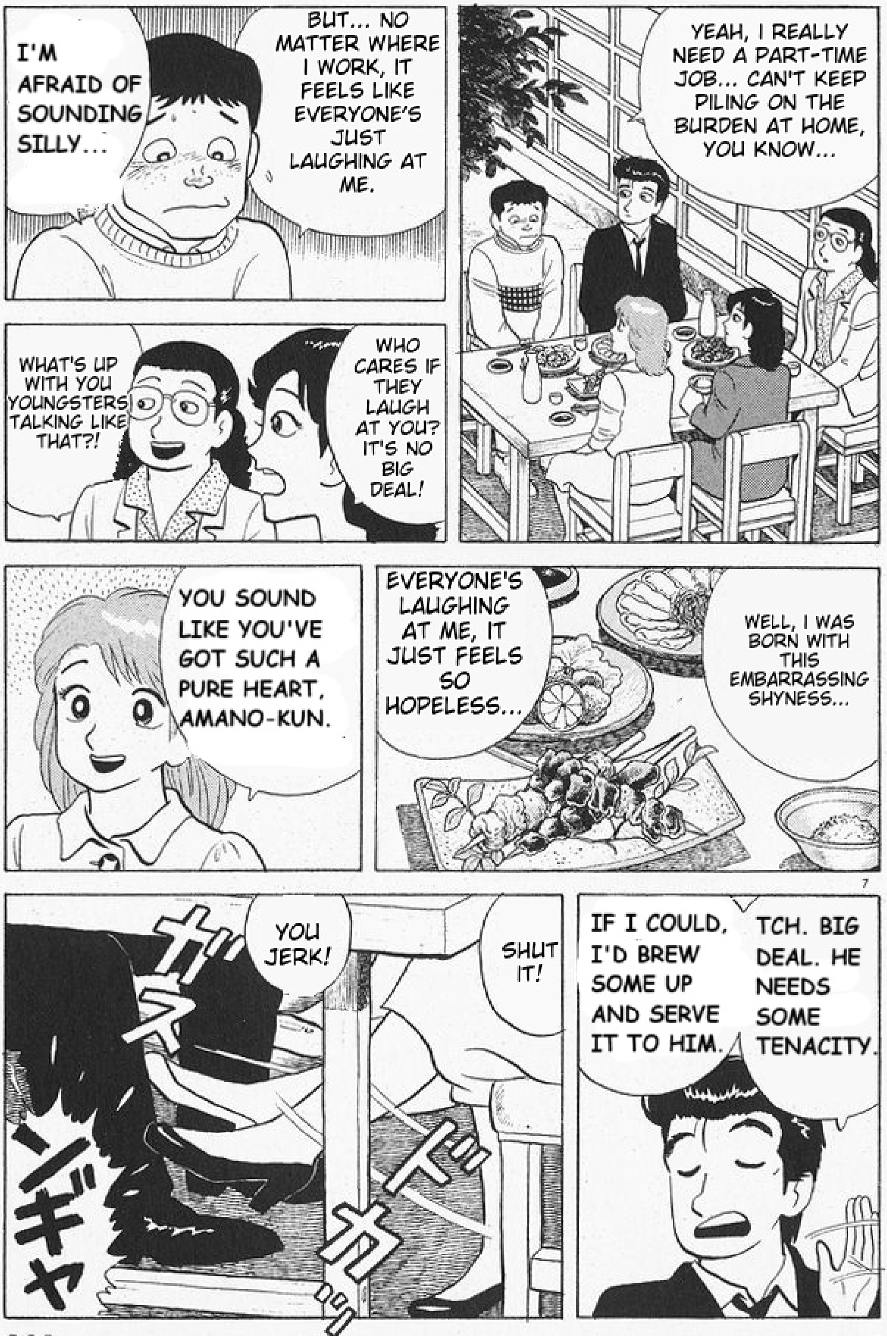

東西新聞社
SO, WHERE DID YOU PUT IT? DID YOU LOSE IT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY?!
HEY, DON'T MESS WITH ME! I'VE GOT A MILLION THINGS TO JUGGLE HERE!
LISTEN UP, YOU BETTER PAY ATTENTION!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THIS PART-TIME JOB IS NO JOKE!
I SENT YOU TO PICK UP A MANUSCRIPT FROM THE CRITIC MR. AOYAMA EARLIER, AND NOW HIS WIFE IS FURIOUS AND CALLED ME IN A RAGE...
AT THE ENTRANCE, YOU JUST BLURTED OUT 'EAST-WEST NEWS' IN THE MOST CURT MANNER,
AND SNATCHED THE MANUSCRIPT BAG WITHOUT SO MUCH AS A GREETING!
WELL...


AND WHILE I'M AWAY, THEY COME BACK TO THE OFFICE,
AND WHEN I ASK ABOUT THE MANUSCRIPT, THEY JUST POINT TO THIS TABLE, LEAVING ME CLUELESS ABOUT WHERE IT IS!
THIS ISN'T IT?
OH, HERE IT IS!
I THINK I MIGHT BE MEDDLING TOO MUCH.
I REALLY DON'T LIKE IT, BUT THIS PART-TIME WORKER BARELY SAYS A WORD!
THIS IS JUST RIDICULOUS.
タ"ッ
OH MY?!
WHAT IS WRONG WITH THAT KID?


ガラッ
WHAT ON EARTH WERE YOU THINKING, NOT SAYING A SINGLE WORD TO THE CUSTOMERS?!!
NEC
WAIT… ISN'T THAT THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS WORKING PART-TIME AT OUR PLACE THE OTHER DAY?!
YOU'RE FIRED, FIRED, I SAY!!
YOU'RE COMPLETELY USELESS, YOU KNOW THAT?!
ピシャ
HEY THERE!
OH DEAR… SO YOU GOT FIRED FROM THAT PLACE, HUH…
I SAW EVERYTHING.


HEY, WHAT ON EARTH IS STOPPING YOU FROM LISTENING TO ME?
ISN'T THAT THE ROOT OF ALL YOUR TROUBLES?
COME ON, SPILL THE BEANS! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU OUT.
WHERE IS HE GOING?
HEY! WAIT!
ダッ
I JUST CAN'T WRAP MY HEAD AROUND THIS...
......
OH MY, LOOK AT THAT PERSON...


OH, UM...
THIS IS, UM, ABOUT... WELL, I WAS HOPING TO CONSULT WITH YOU, IF THAT'S OKAY.
THAT'S ALRIGHT.
THAT'S FINE, BUT WOW, YOU HAVE QUITE THE ACCENT!
I'M, UH,
LOOKING TO CONSULT ABOUT SOMETHING, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN REALLY DO IT, YOU KNOW?
WOULD YOU MIND SLOWING DOWN? YOUR ACCENT...
6
I HAIL FROM IWATE, BY THE WAY.
I'M AIMING FOR MY SECOND SHOT AT UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS, SO I'M TAKING A GAP YEAR, YOU SEE...


YEAH, I REALLY NEED A PART-TIME JOB... CAN'T KEEP PILING ON THE BURDEN AT HOME, YOU KNOW...
BUT... NO MATTER WHERE I WORK, IT FEELS LIKE EVERYONE'S JUST LAUGHING AT ME.
I'M AFRAID OF SOUNDING SILLY...
WHO CARES IF THEY LAUGH AT YOU? IT'S NO BIG DEAL!
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU YOUNGSTERS TALKING LIKE THAT?!
WELL, I WAS BORN WITH THIS EMBARRASSING SHYNESS...
EVERYONE'S LAUGHING AT ME, IT JUST FEELS SO HOPELESS...
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE GOT SUCH A PURE HEART, AMANO-KUN.
TCH. BIG DEAL. HE NEEDS SOME TENACITY.
IF I COULD, I'D BREW SOME UP AND SERVE IT TO HIM.
SHUT IT!
ドカッ
YOU JERK!
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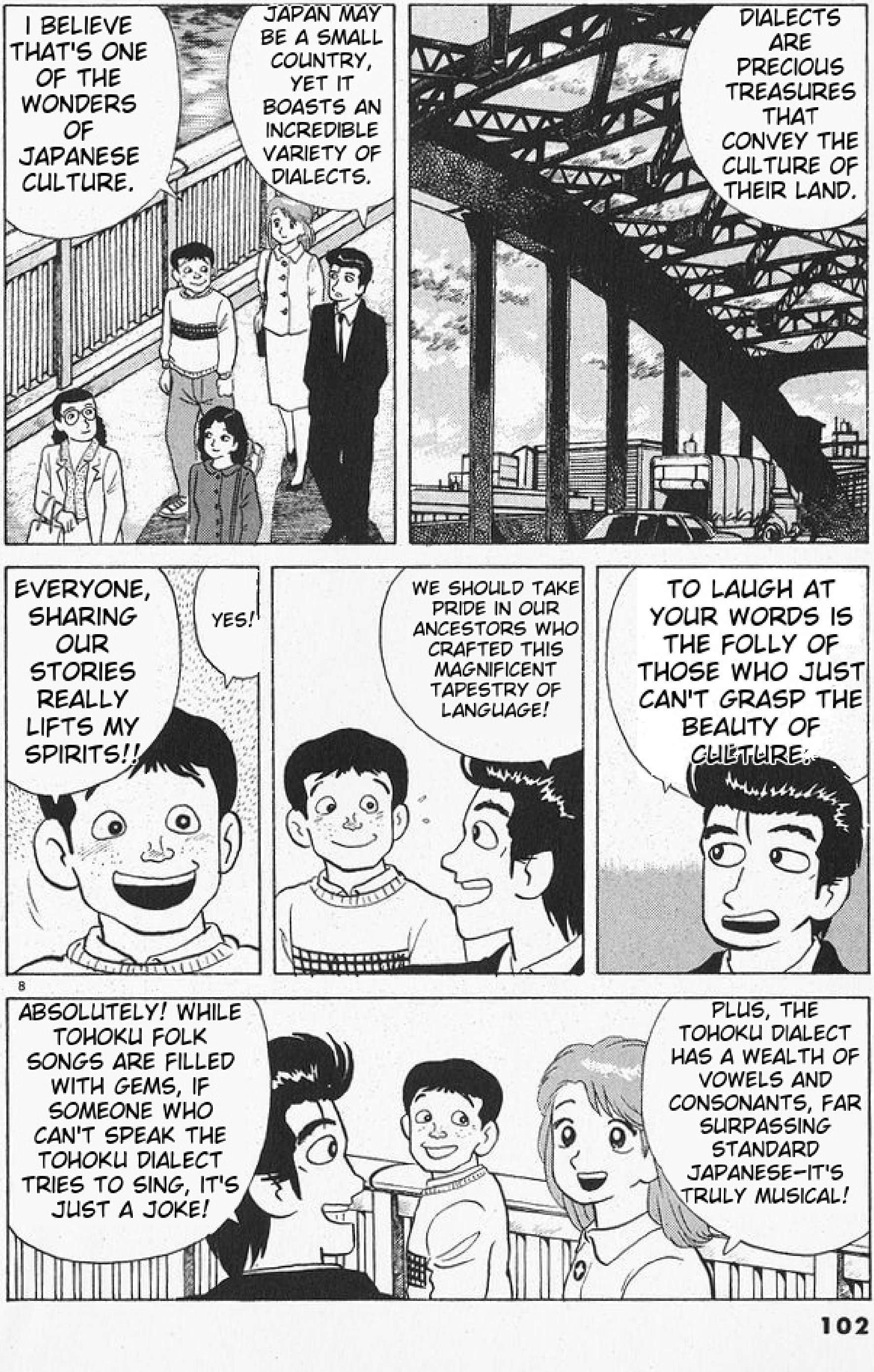
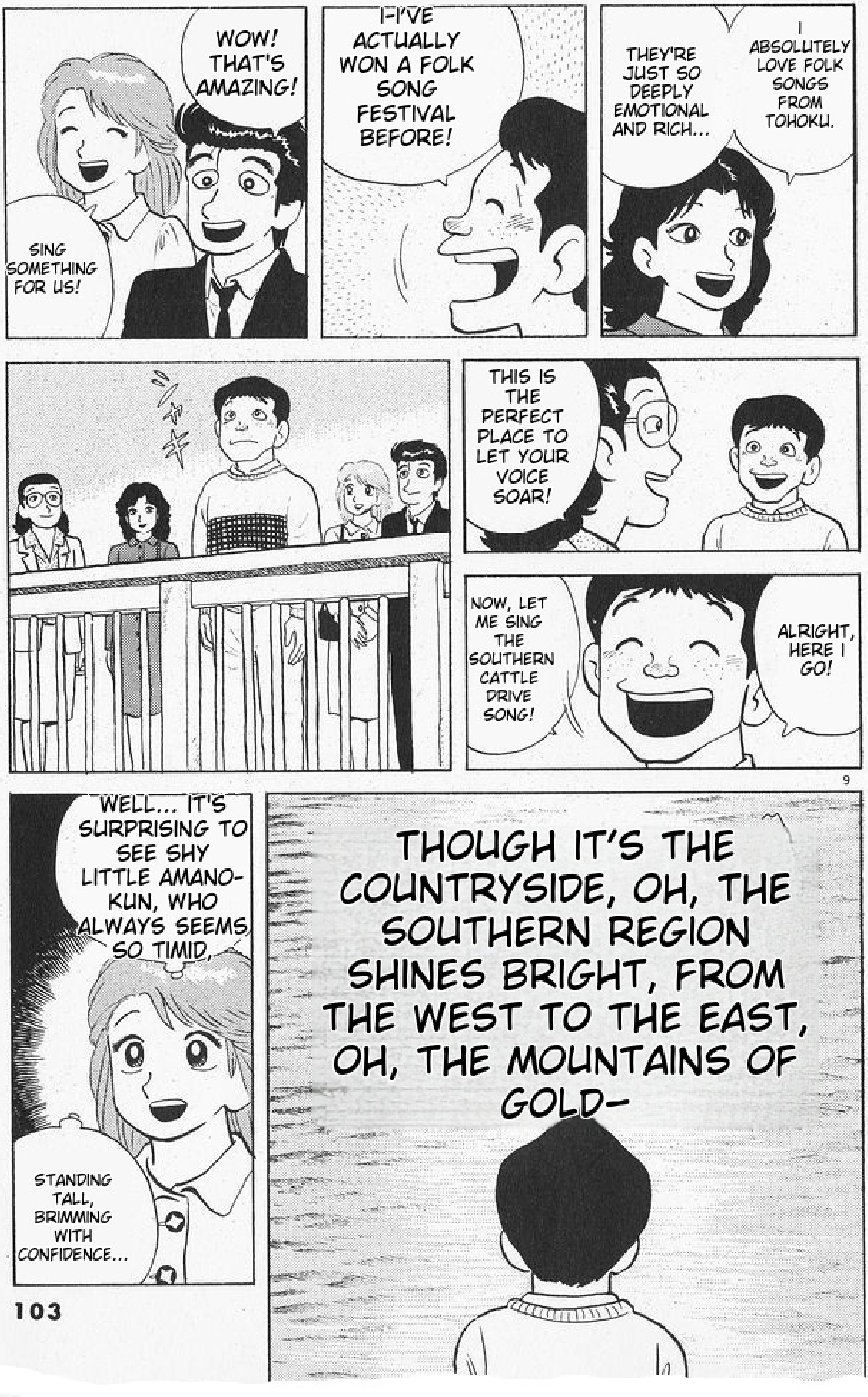
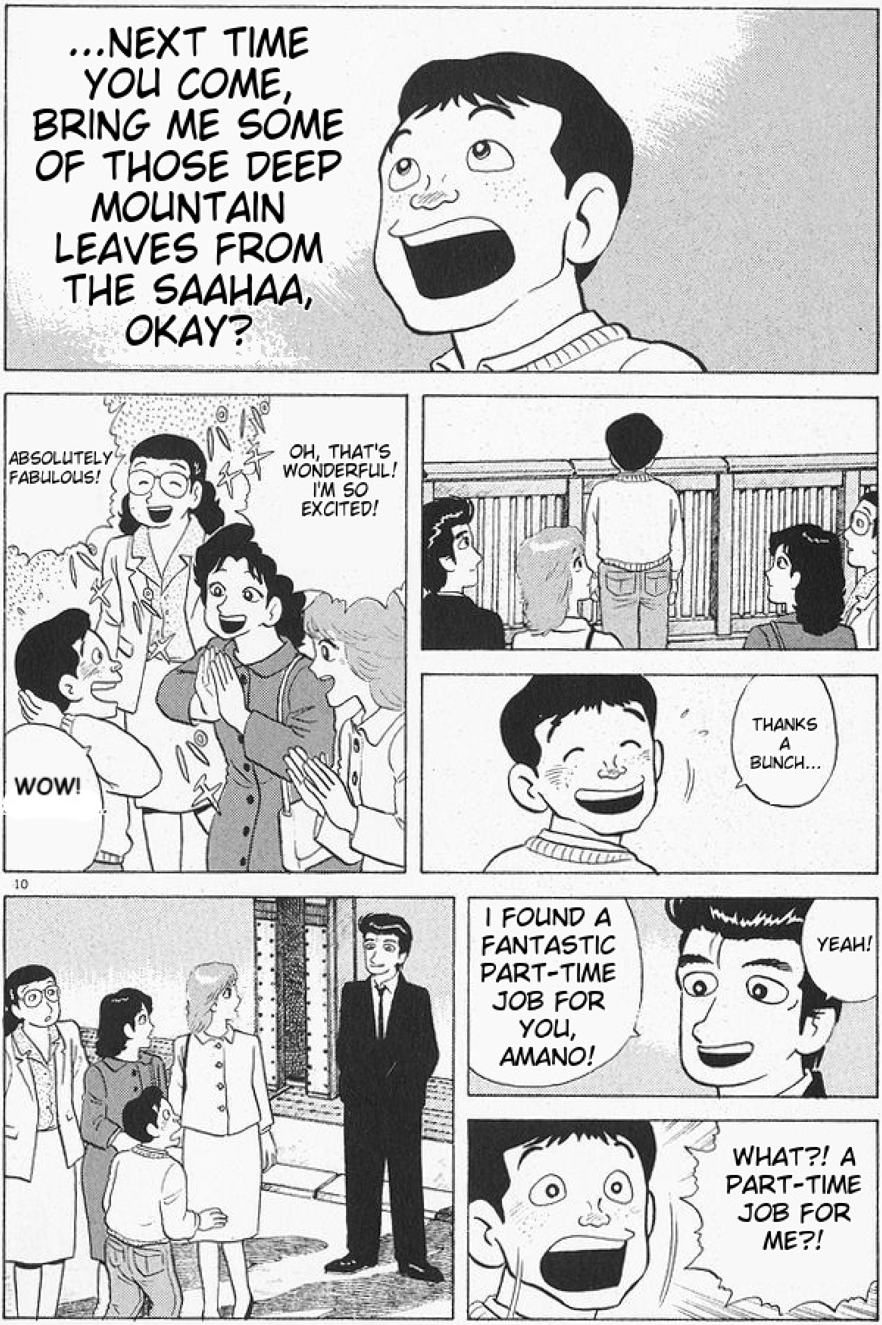
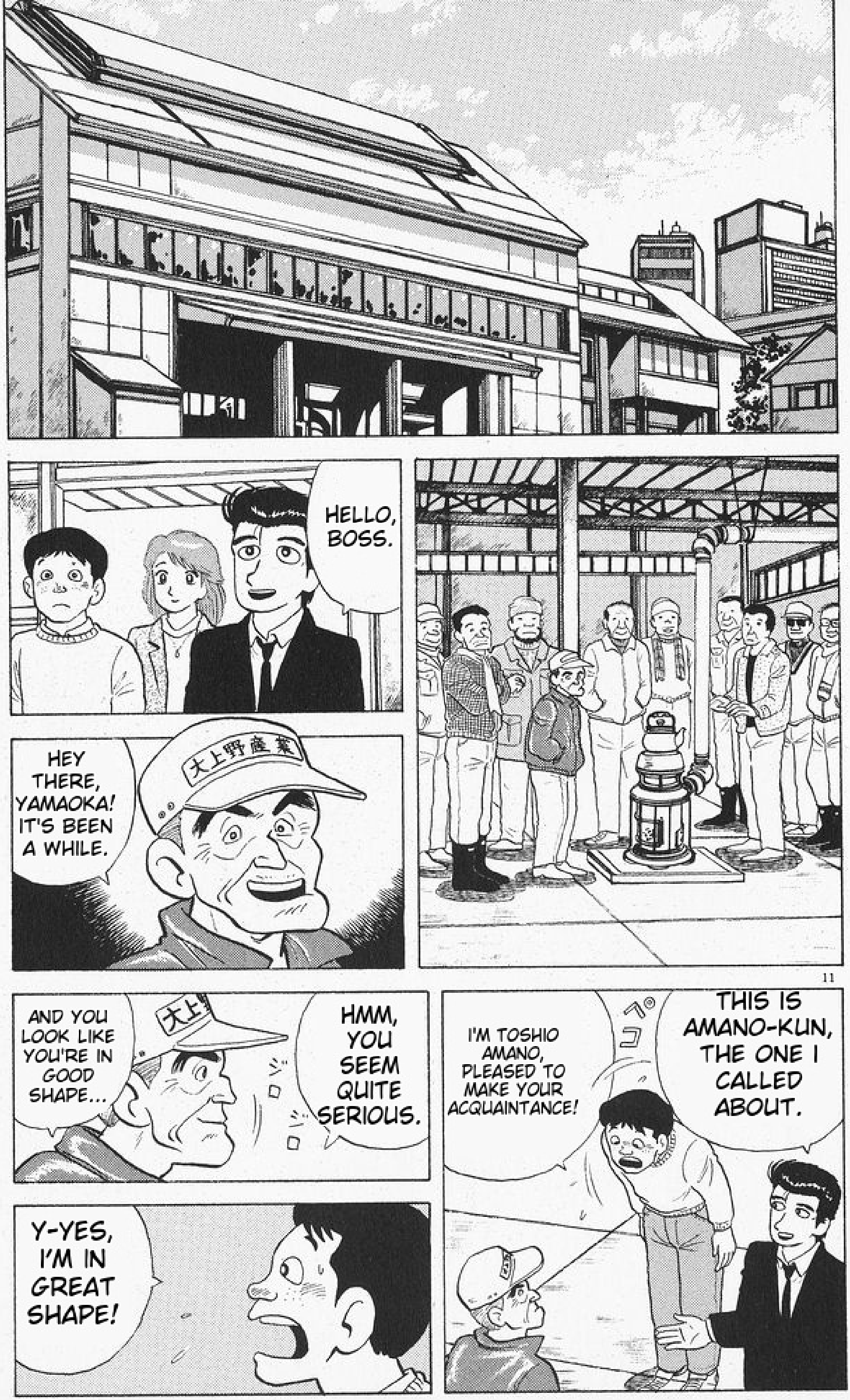
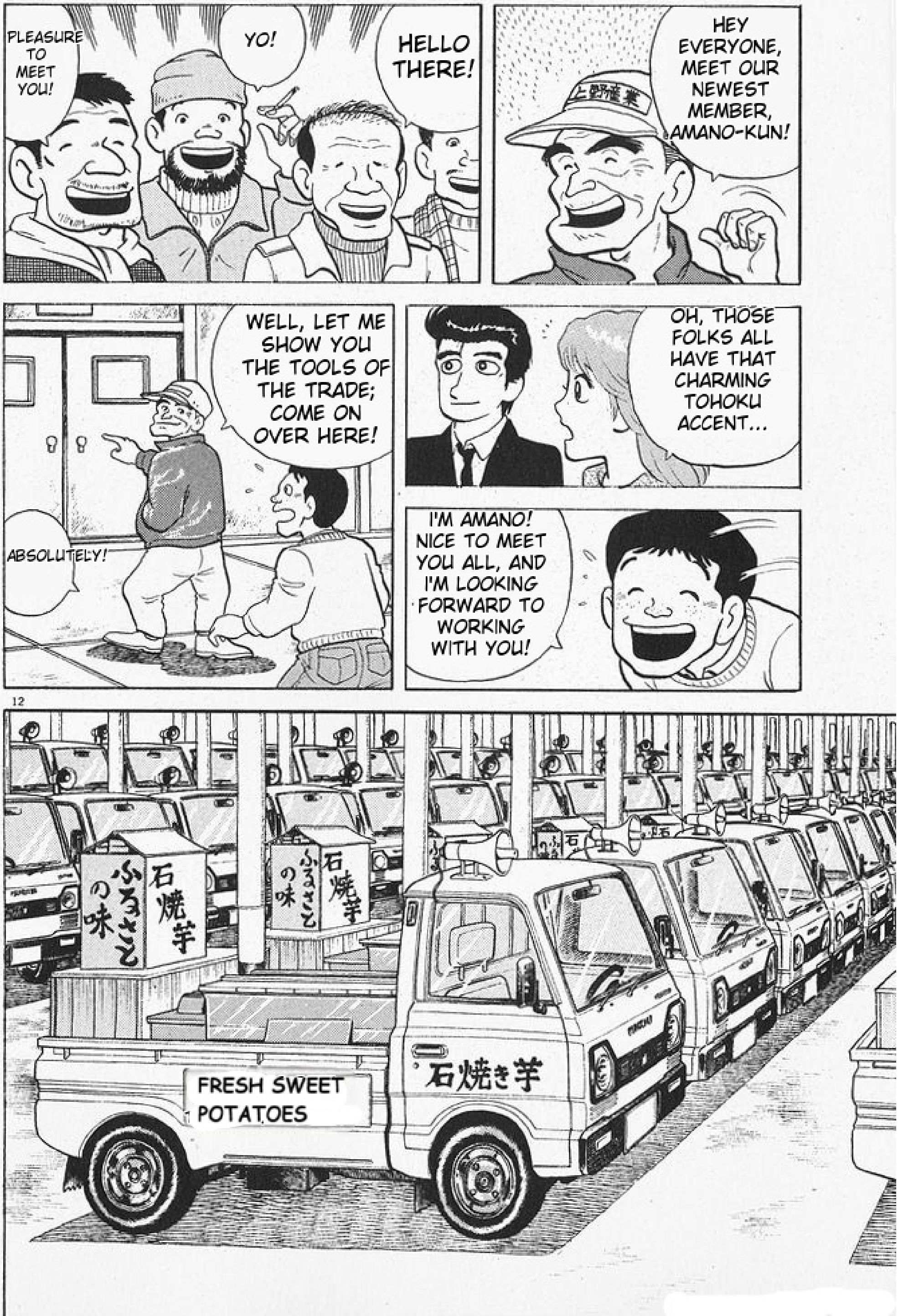
ジギャ

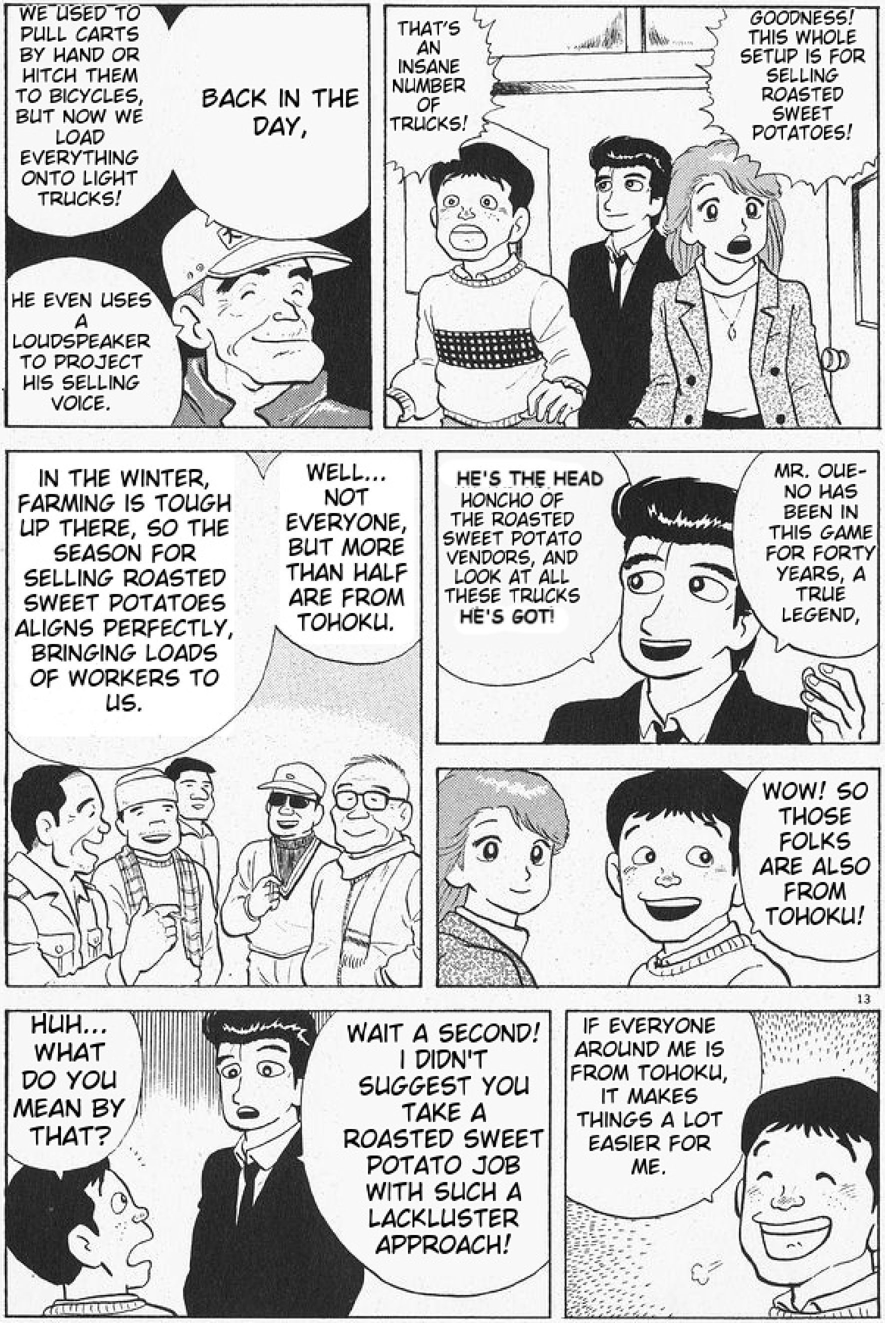

JAPAN MAY BE A SMALL COUNTRY, YET IT BOASTS AN INCREDIBLE VARIETY OF DIALECTS.
I BELIEVE THAT'S ONE OF THE WONDERS OF JAPANESE CULTURE.
DIALECTS ARE PRECIOUS TREASURES THAT CONVEY THE CULTURE OF THEIR LAND.
EVERYONE, SHARING OUR STORIES REALLY LIFTS MY SPIRITS!!
YES!
WE SHOULD TAKE PRIDE IN OUR ANCESTORS WHO CRAFTED THIS MAGNIFICENT TAPESTRY OF LANGUAGE!
TO LAUGH AT YOUR WORDS IS THE FOLLY OF THOSE WHO JUST CAN'T GRASP THE BEAUTY OF CULTURE.
8
ABSOLUTELY! WHILE TOHOKU FOLK SONGS ARE FILLED WITH GEMS, IF SOMEONE WHO CAN'T SPEAK THE TOHOKU DIALECT TRIES TO SING, IT'S JUST A JOKE!
PLUS, THE TOHOKU DIALECT HAS A WEALTH OF VOWELS AND CONSONANTS, FAR SURPASSING STANDARD JAPANESE—IT'S TRULY MUSICAL!

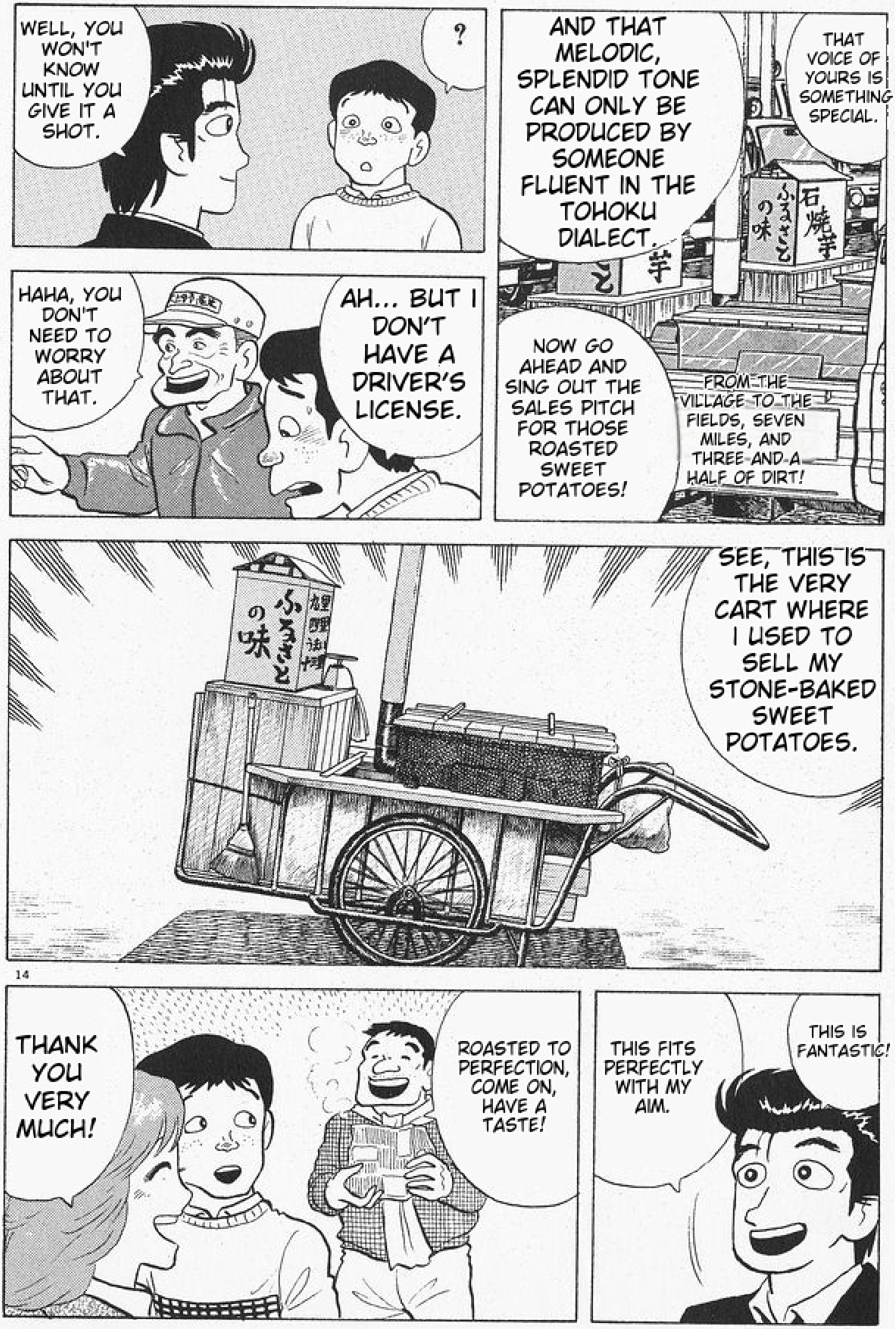

I ABSOLUTELY LOVE FOLK SONGS FROM TOHOKU.
THEY'RE JUST SO DEEPLY EMOTIONAL AND RICH...
I-I'VE ACTUALLY WON A FOLK SONG FESTIVAL BEFORE!
WOW! THAT'S AMAZING!
SING SOMETHING FOR US!
THIS IS THE PERFECT PLACE TO LET YOUR VOICE SOAR!
NOW, LET ME SING THE SOUTHERN CATTLE DRIVE SONG!
ALRIGHT, HERE I GO!
THOUGH IT'S THE COUNTRYSIDE, OH, THE SOUTHERN REGION SHINES BRIGHT, FROM THE WEST TO THE EAST, OH, THE MOUNTAINS OF GOLD–
WELL... IT'S SURPRISING TO SEE SHY LITTLE AMANO-KUN, WHO ALWAYS SEEMS SO TIMID,
STANDING TALL, BRIMMING WITH CONFIDENCE...

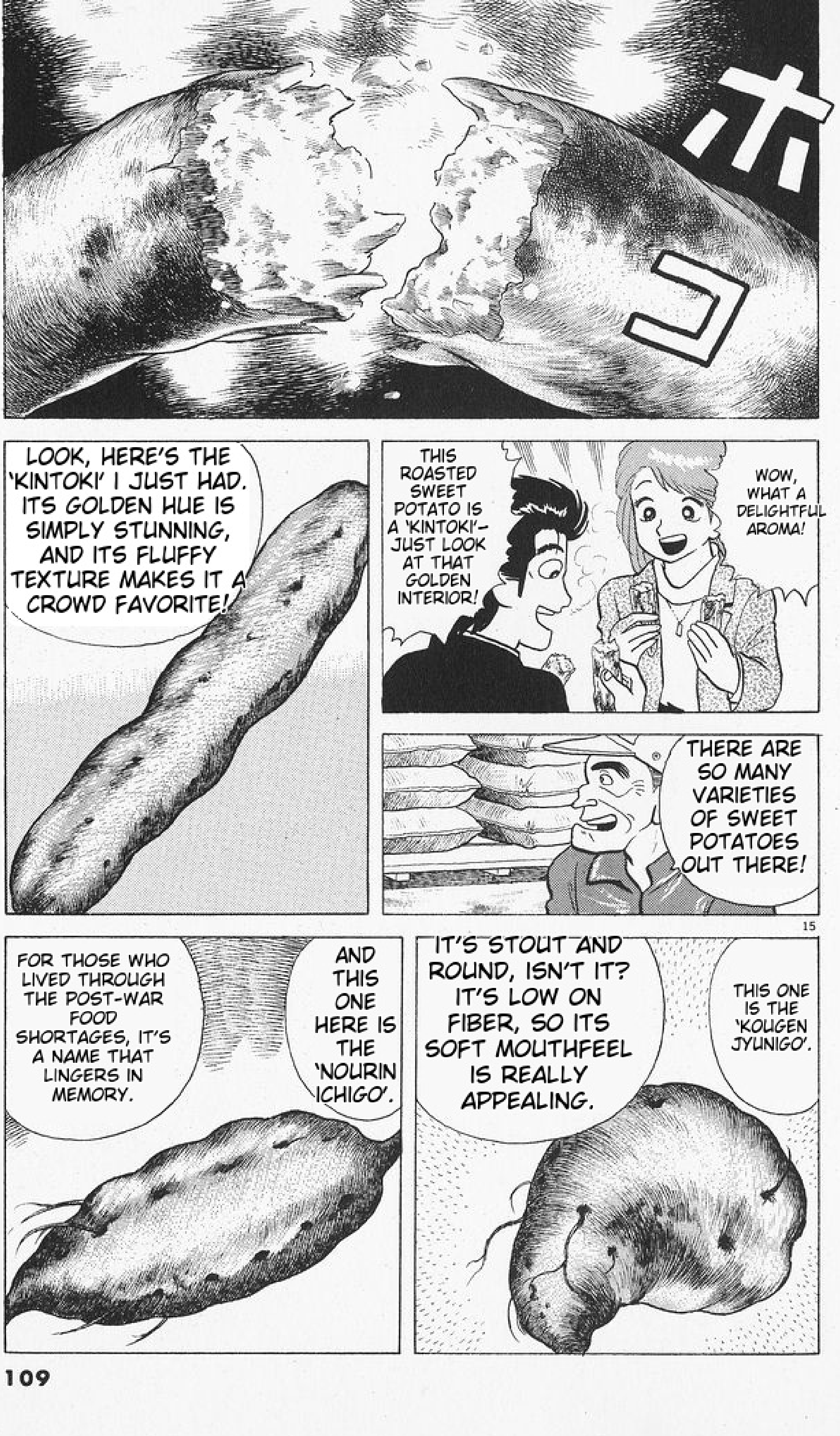

...NEXT TIME YOU COME, BRING ME SOME OF THOSE DEEP MOUNTAIN LEAVES FROM THE SAAHAA, OKAY?
THANKS A BUNCH...
OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL! I'M SO EXCITED!
ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!
WOW!
YEAH!
I FOUND A FANTASTIC PART-TIME JOB FOR YOU, AMANO!
WHAT?! A PART-TIME JOB FOR ME?!


HELLO, BOSS.
大上野産業
HEY THERE, YAMAOKA! IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
11
THIS IS AMANO-KUN, THE ONE I CALLED ABOUT.
ペコ
I'M TOSHIO AMANO, PLEASED TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE!
HMM, YOU SEEM QUITE SERIOUS.
ジロ
ジロ
大上
AND YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN GOOD SHAPE...
Y-YES, I'M IN GREAT SHAPE!


上野産業
HEY EVERYONE, MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER, AMANO-KUN!
HELLO THERE!
YO!
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU!
OH, THOSE FOLKS ALL HAVE THAT CHARMING TOHOKU ACCENT...
WELL, LET ME SHOW YOU THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE; COME ON OVER HERE!
ABSOLUTELY!
I'M AMANO! NICE TO MEET YOU ALL, AND I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!
石焼芋
ふるさとの味
石焼芋
ふるさとの味
石焼き芋
FRESH SWEET POTATOES


GOODNESS! THIS WHOLE SETUP IS FOR SELLING ROASTED SWEET POTATOES!
THAT'S AN INSANE NUMBER OF TRUCKS!
BACK IN THE DAY,
WE USED TO PULL CARTS BY HAND OR HITCH THEM TO BICYCLES, BUT NOW WE LOAD EVERYTHING ONTO LIGHT TRUCKS!
HE EVEN USES A LOUDSPEAKER TO PROJECT HIS SELLING VOICE.
MR. OUENO HAS BEEN IN THIS GAME FOR FORTY YEARS, A TRUE LEGEND,
HE'S THE HEAD HONCHO OF THE ROASTED SWEET POTATO VENDORS, AND LOOK AT ALL THESE TRUCKS HE'S GOT!
WOW! SO THOSE FOLKS ARE ALSO FROM TOHOKU!
WELL... NOT EVERYONE, BUT MORE THAN HALF ARE FROM TOHOKU.
IN THE WINTER, FARMING IS TOUGH UP THERE, SO THE SEASON FOR SELLING ROASTED SWEET POTATOES ALIGNS PERFECTLY, BRINGING LOADS OF WORKERS TO US.
IF EVERYONE AROUND ME IS FROM TOHOKU, IT MAKES THINGS A LOT EASIER FOR ME.
WAIT A SECOND! I DIDN'T SUGGEST YOU TAKE A ROASTED SWEET POTATO JOB WITH SUCH A LACKLUSTER APPROACH!
HUH... WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?


THAT VOICE OF YOURS IS SOMETHING SPECIAL.
AND THAT MELODIC, SPLENDID TONE CAN ONLY BE PRODUCED BY SOMEONE FLUENT IN THE TOHOKU DIALECT.
ふるさとの味
石焼芋
NOW GO AHEAD AND SING OUT THE SALES PITCH FOR THOSE ROASTED SWEET POTATOES!
FROM THE VILLAGE TO THE FIELDS, SEVEN MILES, AND THREE-AND-A HALF OF DIRT!
?
WELL, YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU GIVE IT A SHOT.
AH... BUT I DON'T HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE.
HAHA, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
SEE, THIS IS THE VERY CART WHERE I USED TO SELL MY STONE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES.
ふるさとの味
THIS IS FANTASTIC!
THIS FITS PERFECTLY WITH MY AIM.
ROASTED TO PERFECTION, COME ON, HAVE A TASTE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!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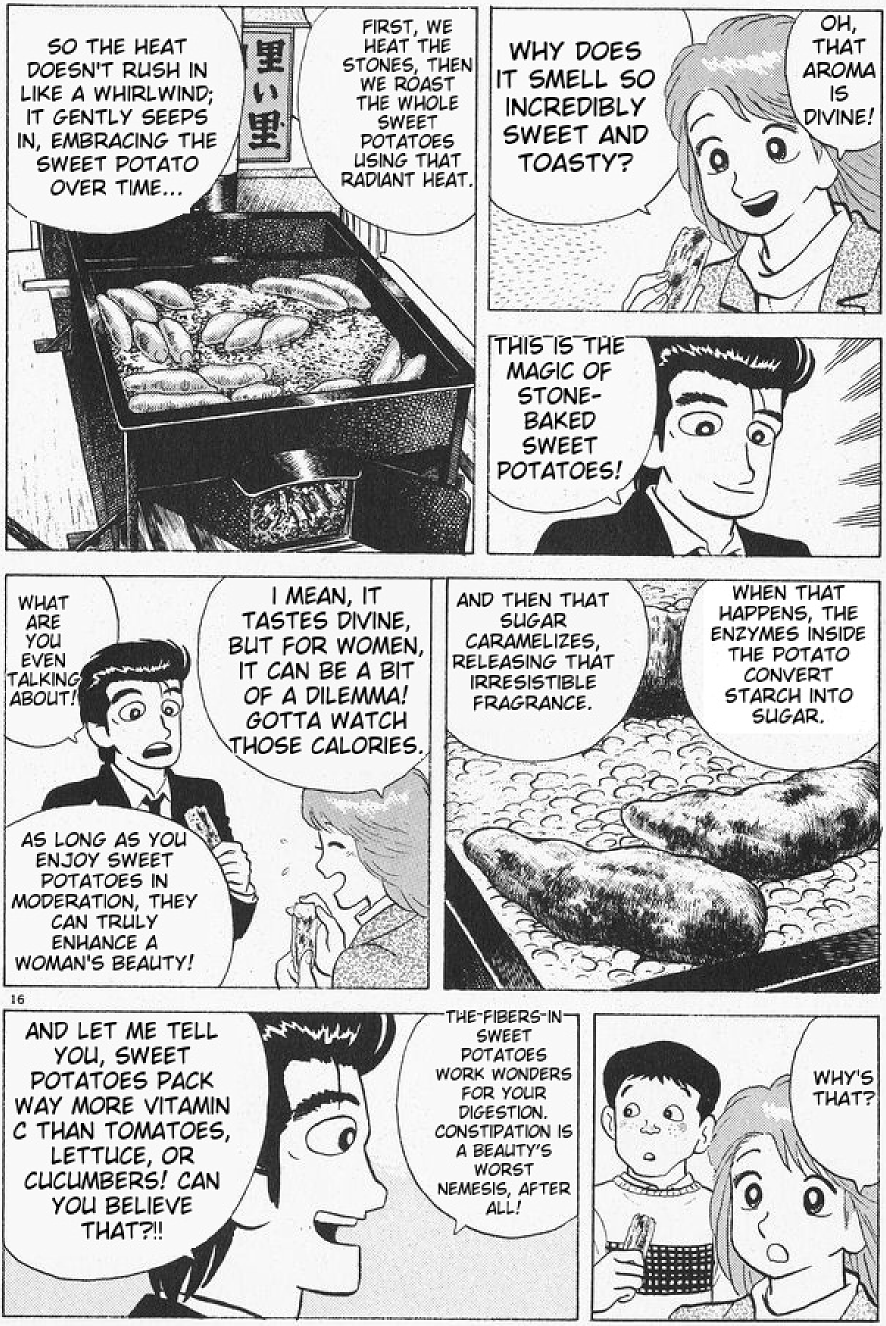
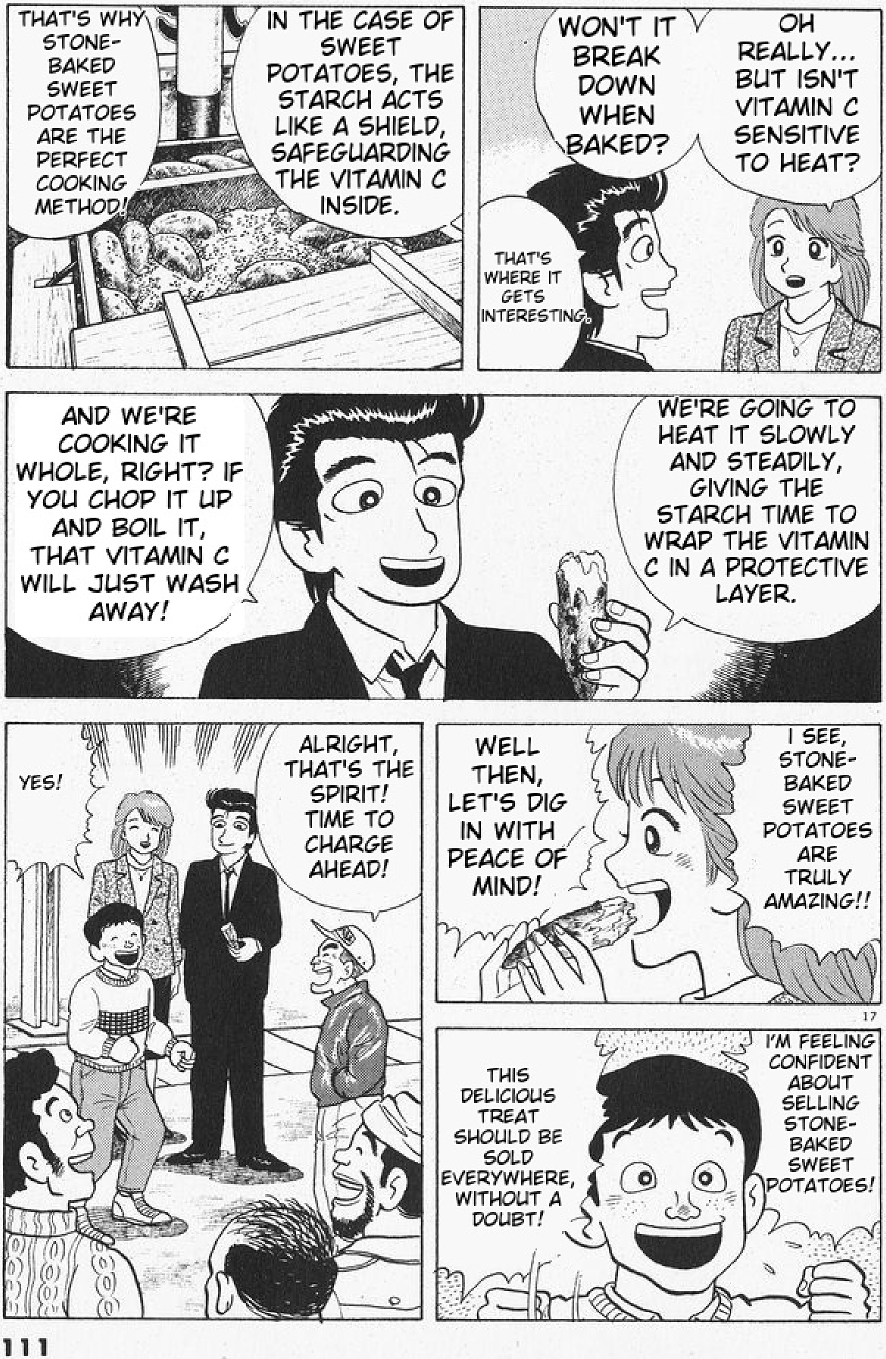
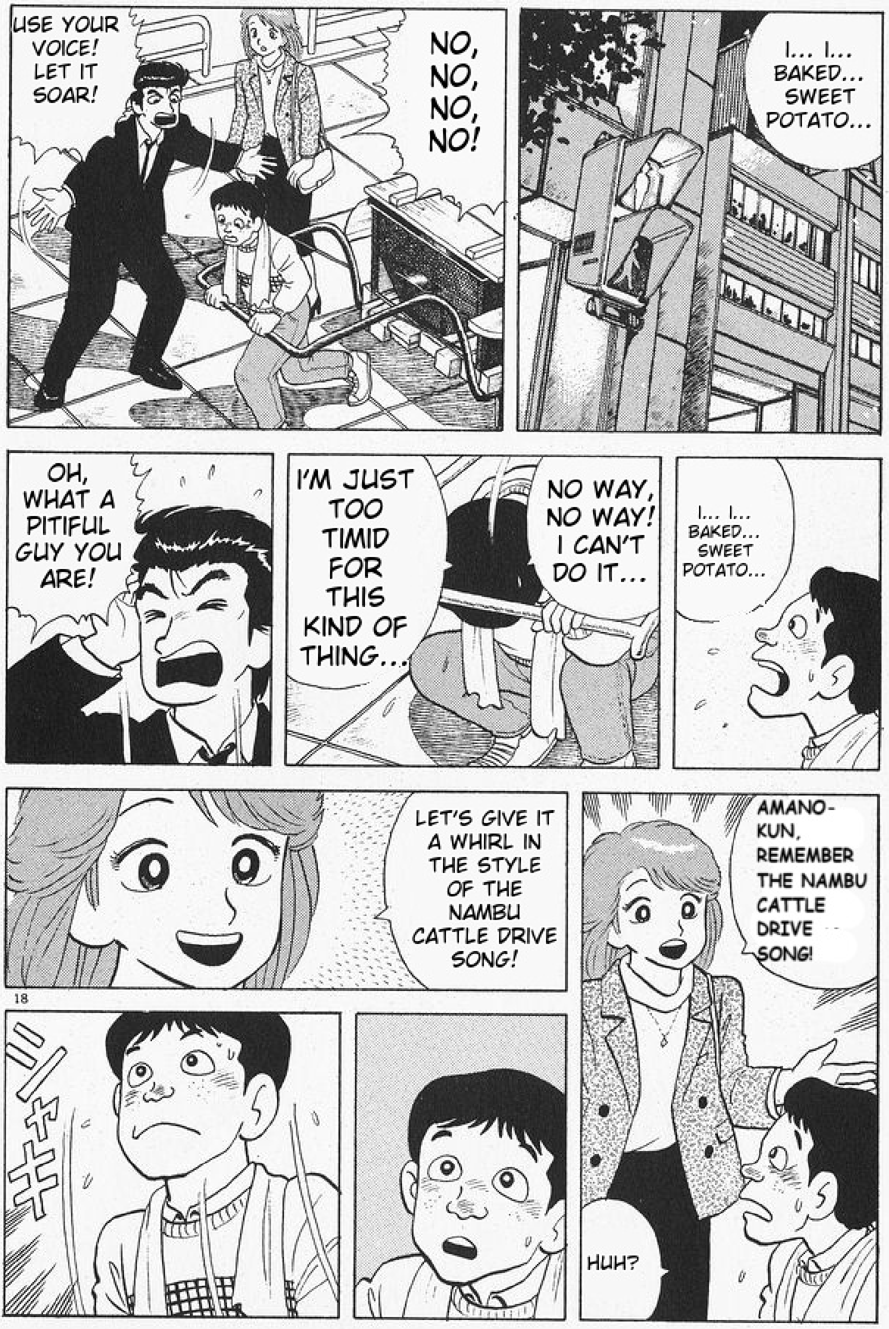
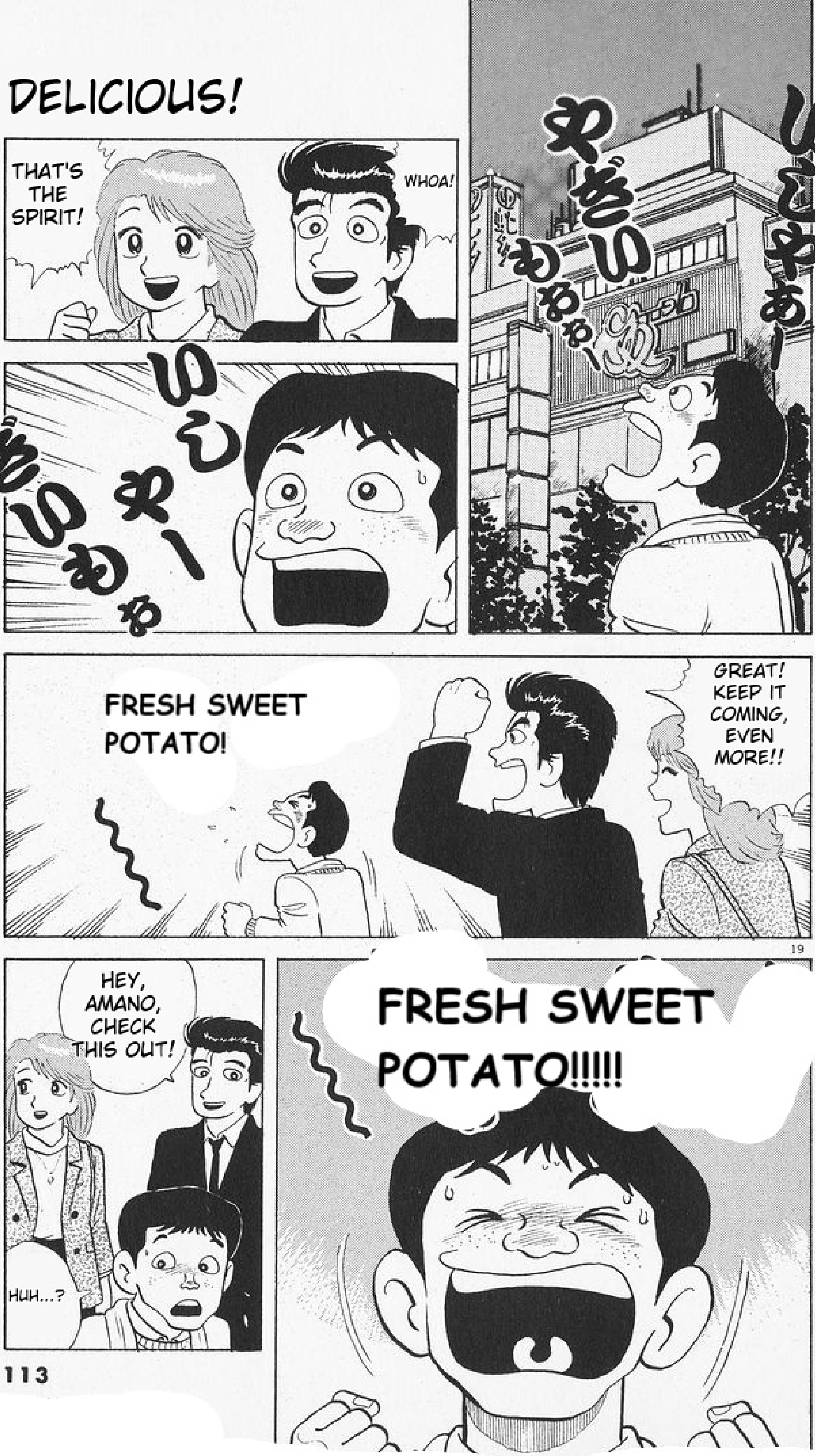
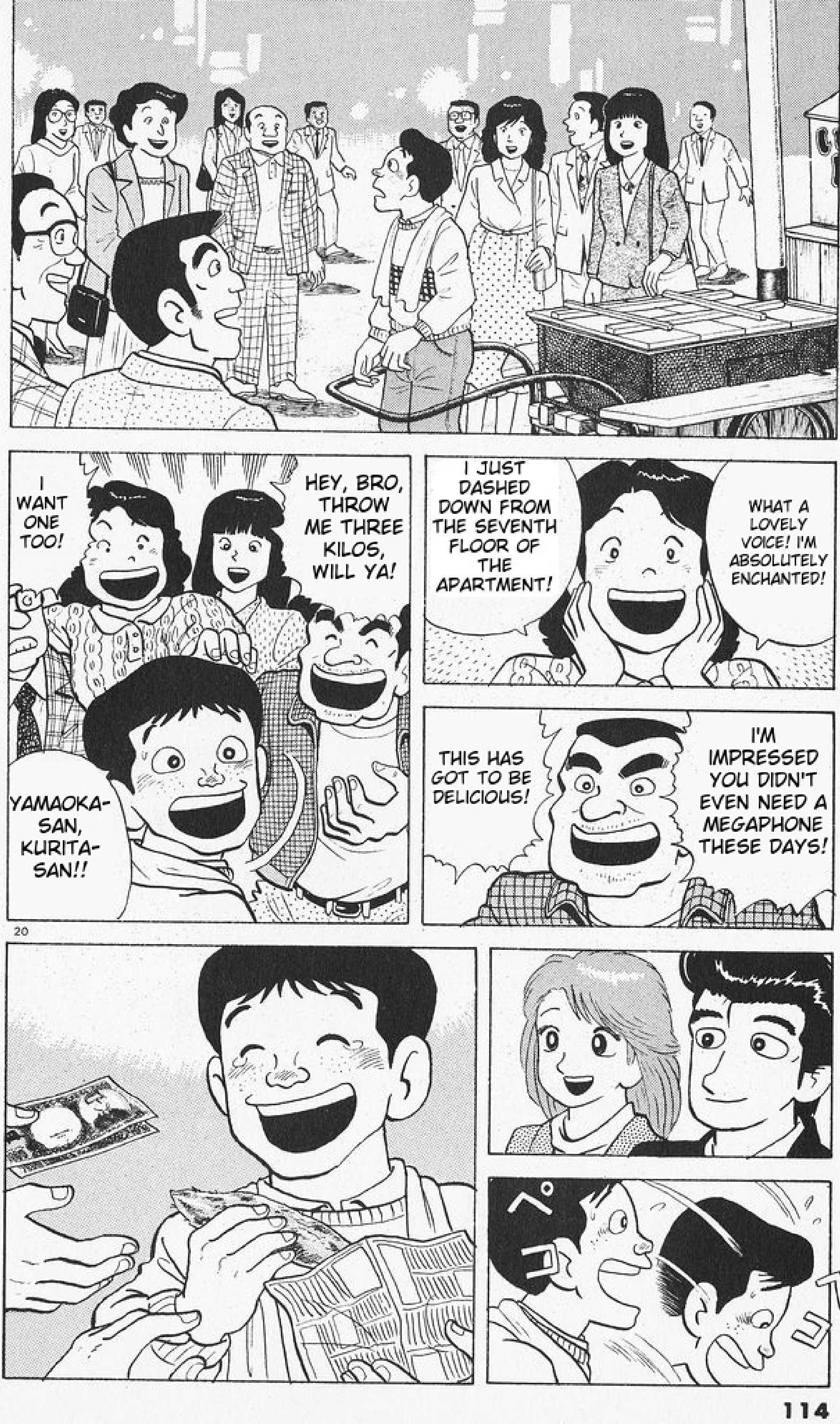
コ
WOW, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AROMA!
THIS ROASTED SWEET POTATO IS A 'KINTOKI'- JUST LOOK AT THAT GOLDEN INTERIOR!
THERE ARE SO MANY VARIETIES OF SWEET POTATOES OUT THERE!
LOOK, HERE'S THE 'KINTOKI' I JUST HAD. ITS GOLDEN HUE IS SIMPLY STUNNING, AND ITS FLUFFY TEXTURE MAKES IT A CROWD FAVORITE!
THIS ONE IS THE 'KOUGEN JYUNIGO'.
IT'S STOUT AND ROUND, ISN'T IT? IT'S LOW ON FIBER, SO ITS SOFT MOUTHFEEL IS REALLY APPEALING.
AND THIS ONE HERE IS THE 'NOURIN ICHIGO'.
FOR THOSE WHO LIVED THROUGH THE POST-WAR FOOD SHORTAGES, IT'S A NAME THAT LINGERS IN MEMORY.

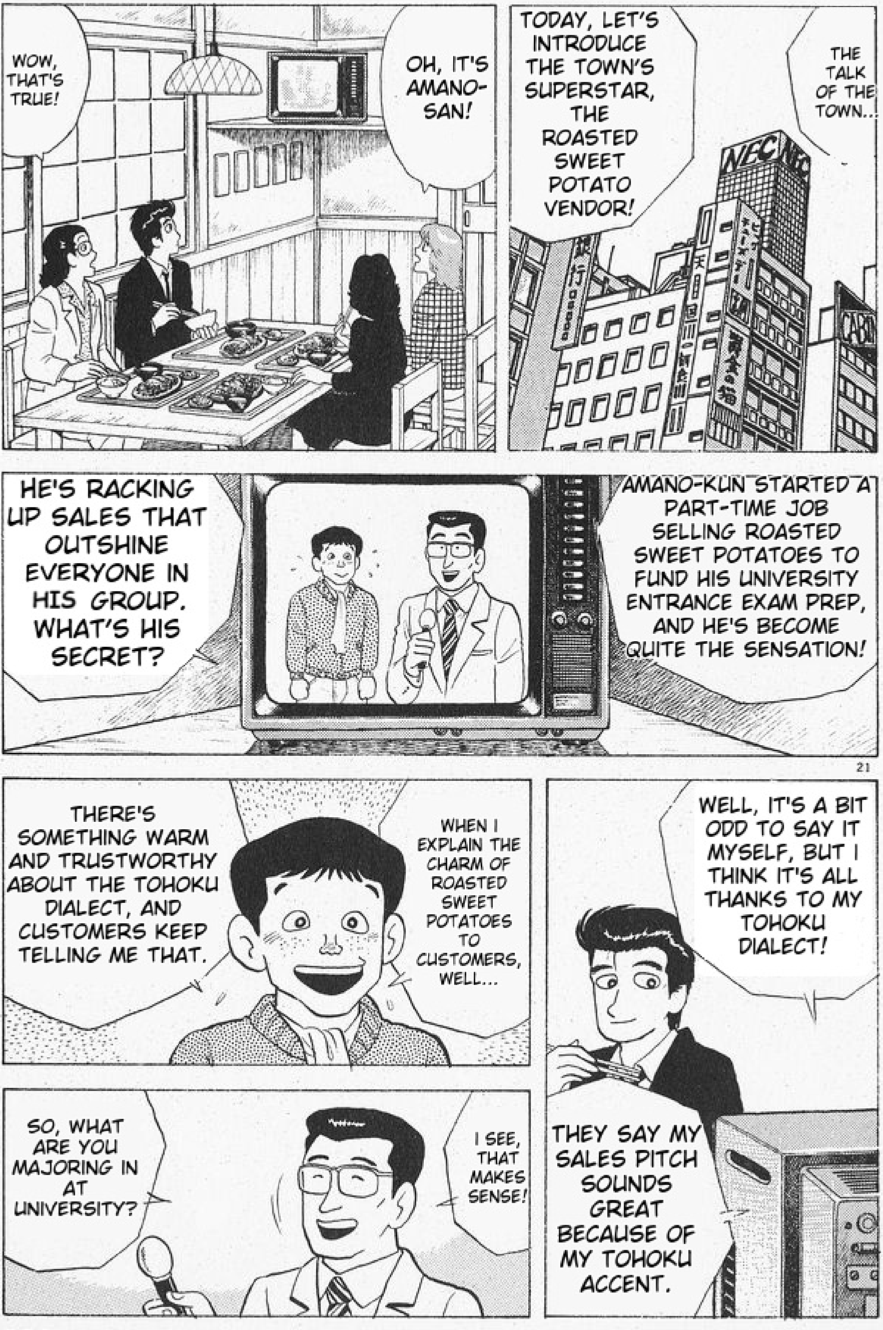

OH, THAT AROMA IS DIVINE!
WHY DOES IT SMELL SO INCREDIBLY SWEET AND TOASTY?
THIS IS THE MAGIC OF STONE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES!
FIRST, WE HEAT THE STONES, THEN WE ROAST THE WHOLE SWEET POTATOES USING THAT RADIANT HEAT.
里い里
SO THE HEAT DOESN'T RUSH IN LIKE A WHIRLWIND; IT GENTLY SEEPS IN, EMBRACING THE SWEET POTATO OVER TIME...
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, THE ENZYMES INSIDE THE POTATO CONVERT STARCH INTO SUGAR.
AND THEN THAT SUGAR CARAMELIZES, RELEASING THAT IRRESISTIBLE FRAGRANCE.
I MEAN, IT TASTES DIVINE, BUT FOR WOMEN, IT CAN BE A BIT OF A DILEMMA! GOTTA WATCH THOSE CALORIES.
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT!
AS LONG AS YOU ENJOY SWEET POTATOES IN MODERATION, THEY CAN TRULY ENHANCE A WOMAN'S BEAUTY!
WHY'S THAT?
THE FIBERS IN SWEET POTATOES WORK WONDERS FOR YOUR DIGESTION. CONSTIPATION IS A BEAUTY'S WORST NEMESIS, AFTER ALL!
AND LET ME TELL YOU, SWEET POTATOES PACK WAY MORE VITAMIN C THAN TOMATOES, LETTUCE, OR CUCUMBERS! CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?!!

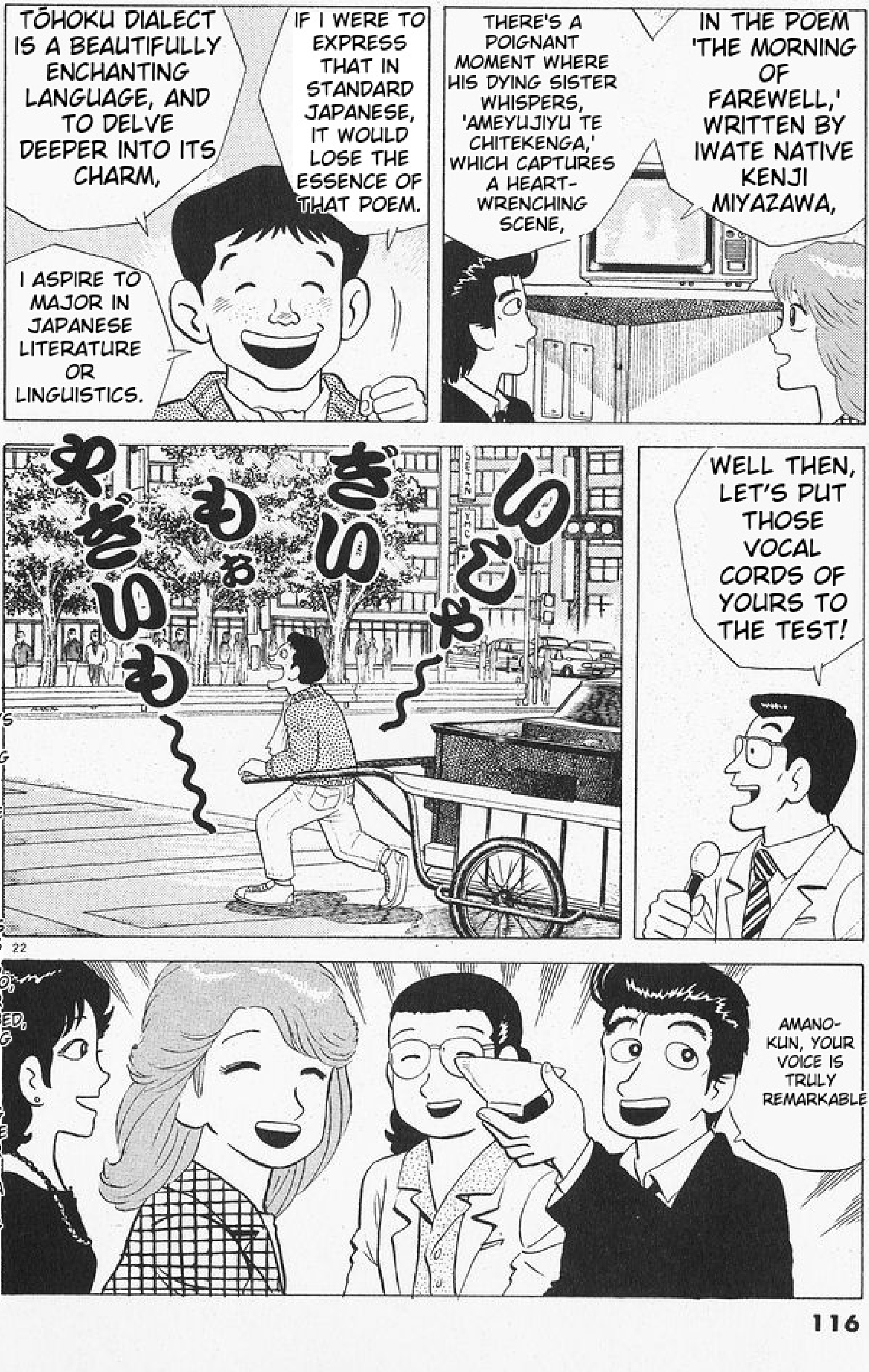

OH REALLY... BUT ISN'T VITAMIN C SENSITIVE TO HEAT?
WON'T IT BREAK DOWN WHEN BAKED?
THAT'S WHERE IT GETS INTERESTING.
IN THE CASE OF SWEET POTATOES, THE STARCH ACTS LIKE A SHIELD, SAFEGUARDING THE VITAMIN C INSIDE.
THAT'S WHY STONE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES ARE THE PERFECT COOKING METHOD!
WE'RE GOING TO HEAT IT SLOWLY AND STEADILY, GIVING THE STARCH TIME TO WRAP THE VITAMIN C IN A PROTECTIVE LAYER.
AND WE'RE COOKING IT WHOLE, RIGHT? IF YOU CHOP IT UP AND BOIL IT, THAT VITAMIN C WILL JUST WASH AWAY!
I SEE, STONE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES ARE TRULY AMAZING!!
WELL THEN, LET'S DIG IN WITH PEACE OF MIND!
I'M FEELING CONFIDENT ABOUT SELLING STONE-BAKED SWEET POTATOES!
THIS DELICIOUS TREAT SHOULD BE SOLD EVERYWHERE, WITHOUT A DOUBT!
ALRIGHT, THAT'S THE SPIRIT! TIME TO CHARGE AHEAD!
YES!


USE YOUR VOICE! LET IT SOAR!
NO, NO, NO, NO!
I... I... BAKED... SWEET POTATO...
OH, WHAT A PITIFUL GUY YOU ARE!
I'M JUST TOO TIMID FOR THIS KIND OF THING...
NO WAY, NO WAY! I CAN'T DO IT...
I... I... BAKED... SWEET POTATO...
LET'S GIVE IT A WHIRL IN THE STYLE OF THE NAMBU CATTLE DRIVE SONG!
AMANO-KUN, REMEMBER THE NAMBU CATTLE DRIVE SONG!
シャキ
HUH?


いしやあー
やきいもおおー
WHOA!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
いしやー
きいもぉぉ
GREAT! KEEP IT COMING, EVEN MORE!!
FRESH SWEET POTATO!
19
FRESH SWEET POTATO!!!!!
HEY, AMANO, CHECK THIS OUT!
HUH...?


WHAT A LOVELY VOICE! I'M ABSOLUTELY ENCHANTED!
I JUST DASHED DOWN FROM THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF THE APARTMENT!
I'M IMPRESSED YOU DIDN'T EVEN NEED A MEGAPHONE THESE DAYS!
THIS HAS GOT TO BE DELICIOUS!
HEY, BRO, THROW ME THREE KILOS, WILL YA!
I WANT ONE TOO!
YAMAOKA-SAN, KURITA-SAN!!
20
ペコ
ペコ


THE TALK OF THE TOWN...
TODAY, LET'S INTRODUCE THE TOWN'S SUPERSTAR, THE ROASTED SWEET POTATO VENDOR!
NEC NEC
OH, IT'S AMANO-SAN!
WOW, THAT'S TRUE!
AMANO-KUN STARTED A PART-TIME JOB SELLING ROASTED SWEET POTATOES TO FUND HIS UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAM PREP, AND HE'S BECOME QUITE THE SENSATION!
HE'S RACKING UP SALES THAT OUTSHINE EVERYONE IN HIS GROUP. WHAT'S HIS SECRET?
21
WELL, IT'S A BIT ODD TO SAY IT MYSELF, BUT I THINK IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY TOHOKU DIALECT!
WHEN I EXPLAIN THE CHARM OF ROASTED SWEET POTATOES TO CUSTOMERS, WELL...
THERE'S SOMETHING WARM AND TRUSTWORTHY ABOUT THE TOHOKU DIALECT, AND CUSTOMERS KEEP TELLING ME THAT.
THEY SAY MY SALES PITCH SOUNDS GREAT BECAUSE OF MY TOHOKU ACCENT.
I SEE, THAT MAKES SENSE!
SO, WHAT ARE YOU MAJORING IN AT UNIVERSITY?

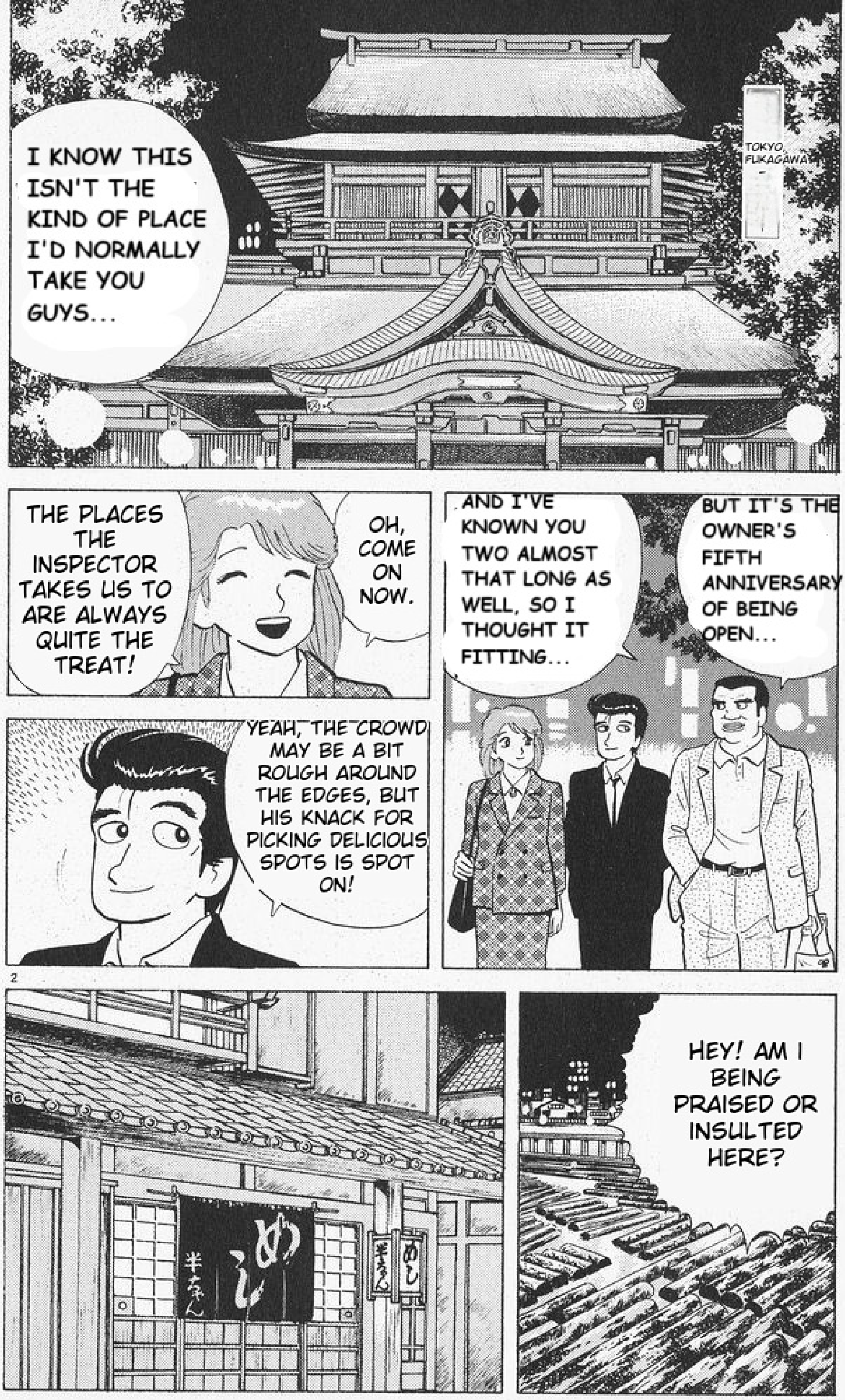

IN THE POEM 'THE MORNING OF FAREWELL,' WRITTEN BY IWATE NATIVE KENJI MIYAZAWA,
THERE'S A POIGNANT MOMENT WHERE HIS DYING SISTER WHISPERS, 'AMEYUJIYU TE CHITEKENGA,' WHICH CAPTURES A HEART-WRENCHING SCENE,
IF I WERE TO EXPRESS THAT IN STANDARD JAPANESE, IT WOULD LOSE THE ESSENCE OF THAT POEM.
TŌHOKU DIALECT IS A BEAUTIFULLY ENCHANTING LANGUAGE, AND TO DELVE DEEPER INTO ITS CHARM,
I ASPIRE TO MAJOR IN JAPANESE LITERATURE OR LINGUISTICS.
WELL THEN, LET'S PUT THOSE VOCAL CORDS OF YOURS TO THE TEST!
いじゃ～
ぎい～
もぉ
やぎいも～
AMANO-KUN, YOUR VOICE IS TRULY REMARKABLE!

*IT CONVEYS A MEANING AKIN TO 'PLEASE BRING ME SOME SNOW.' IT DEPICTS KENJI'S SISTER, SHIZUKO, ON HER DEATHBED, BEGGING FOR THE SNOW FALLING OUTSIDE AS HER LAST MEAL. A TRULY MOVING PIECE.

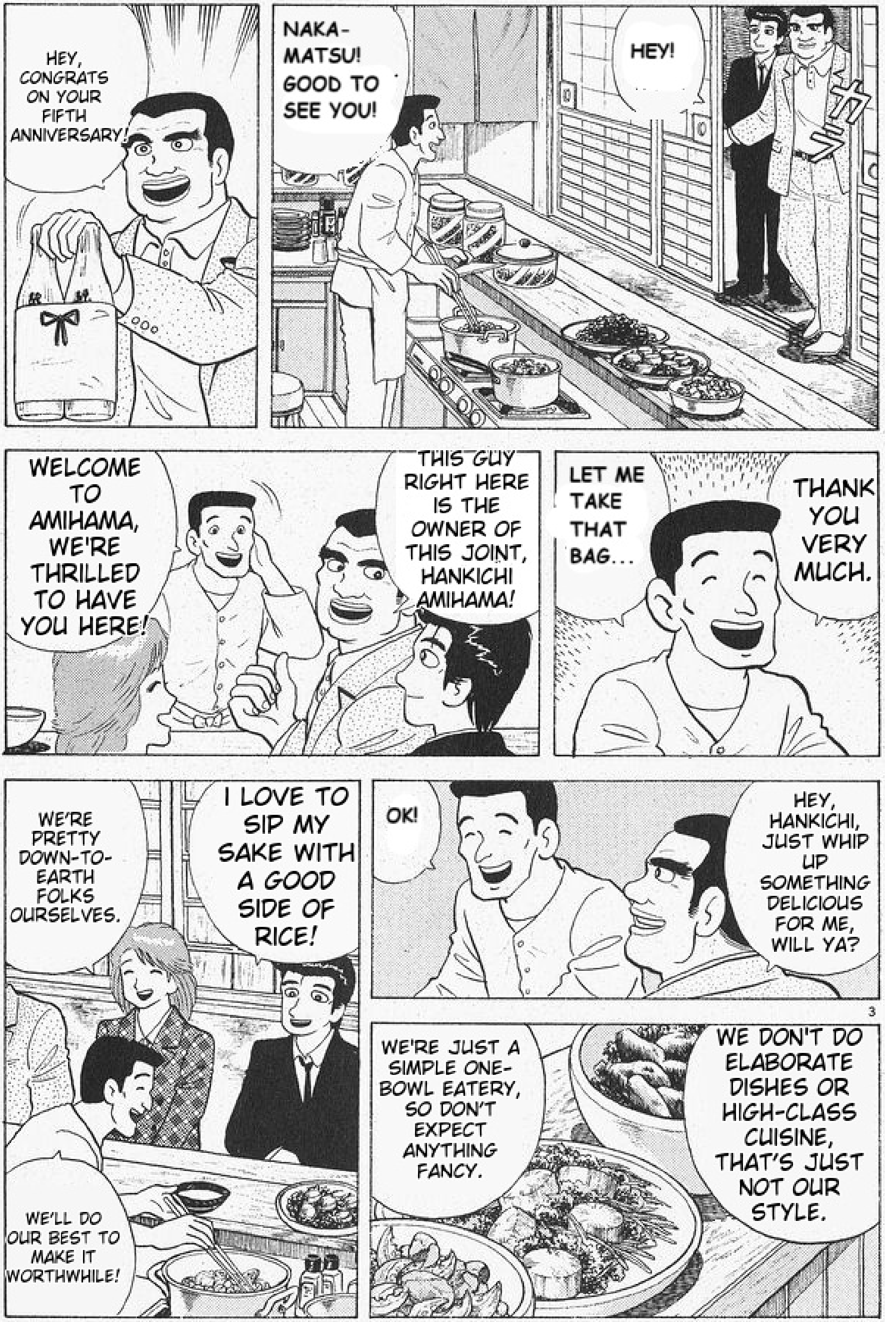
22

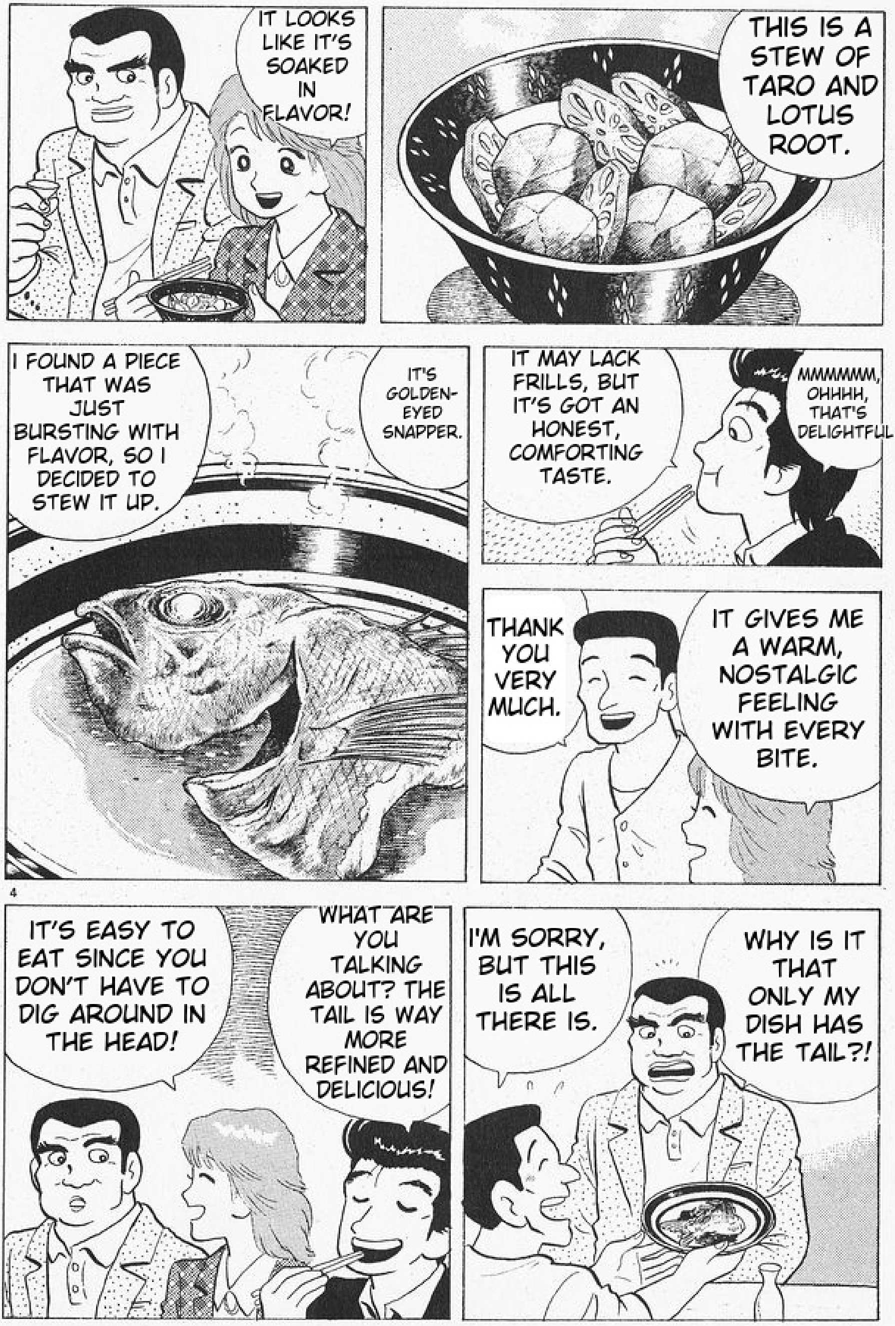
第4話

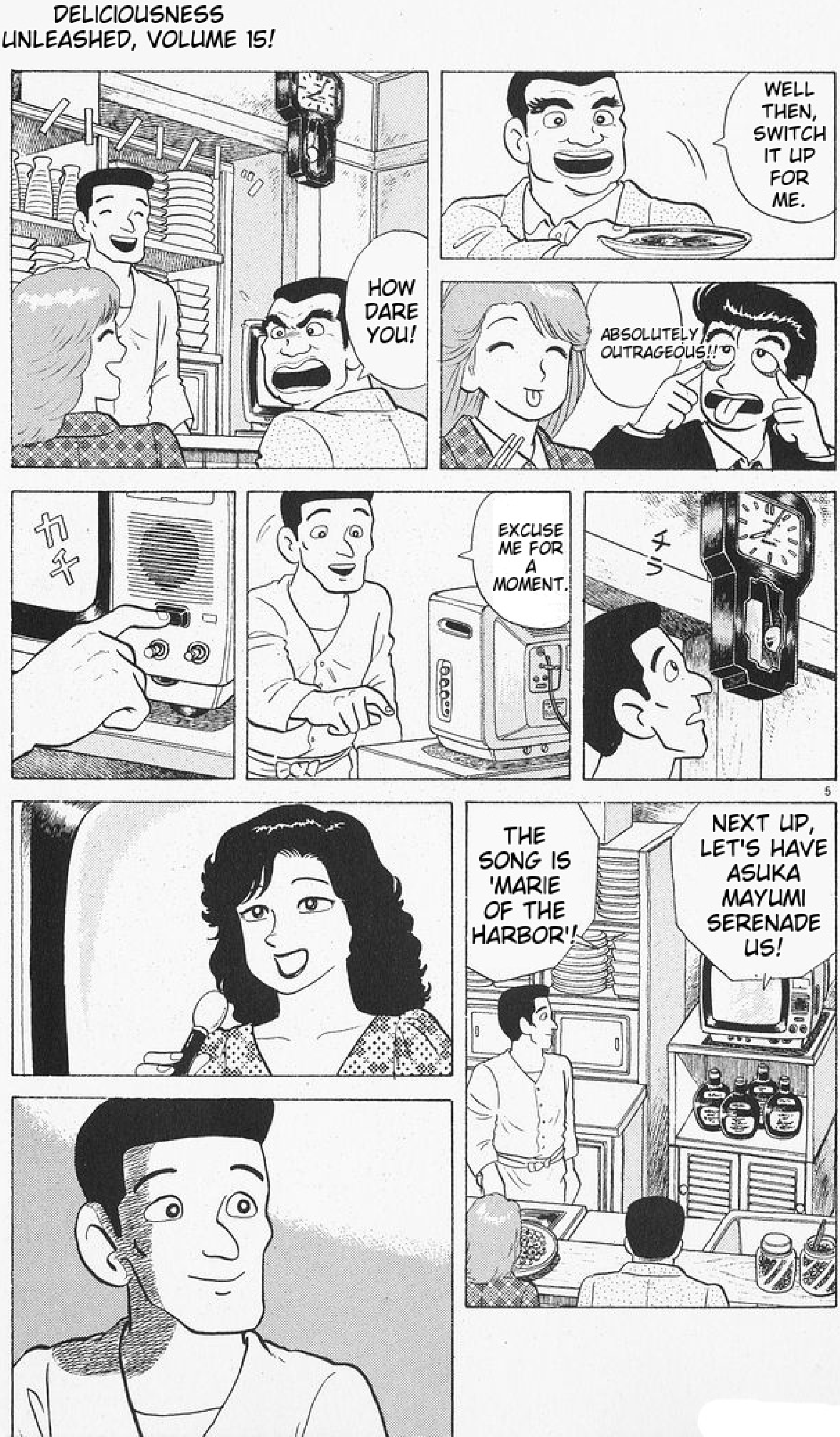
下町の温(ぬく)もり

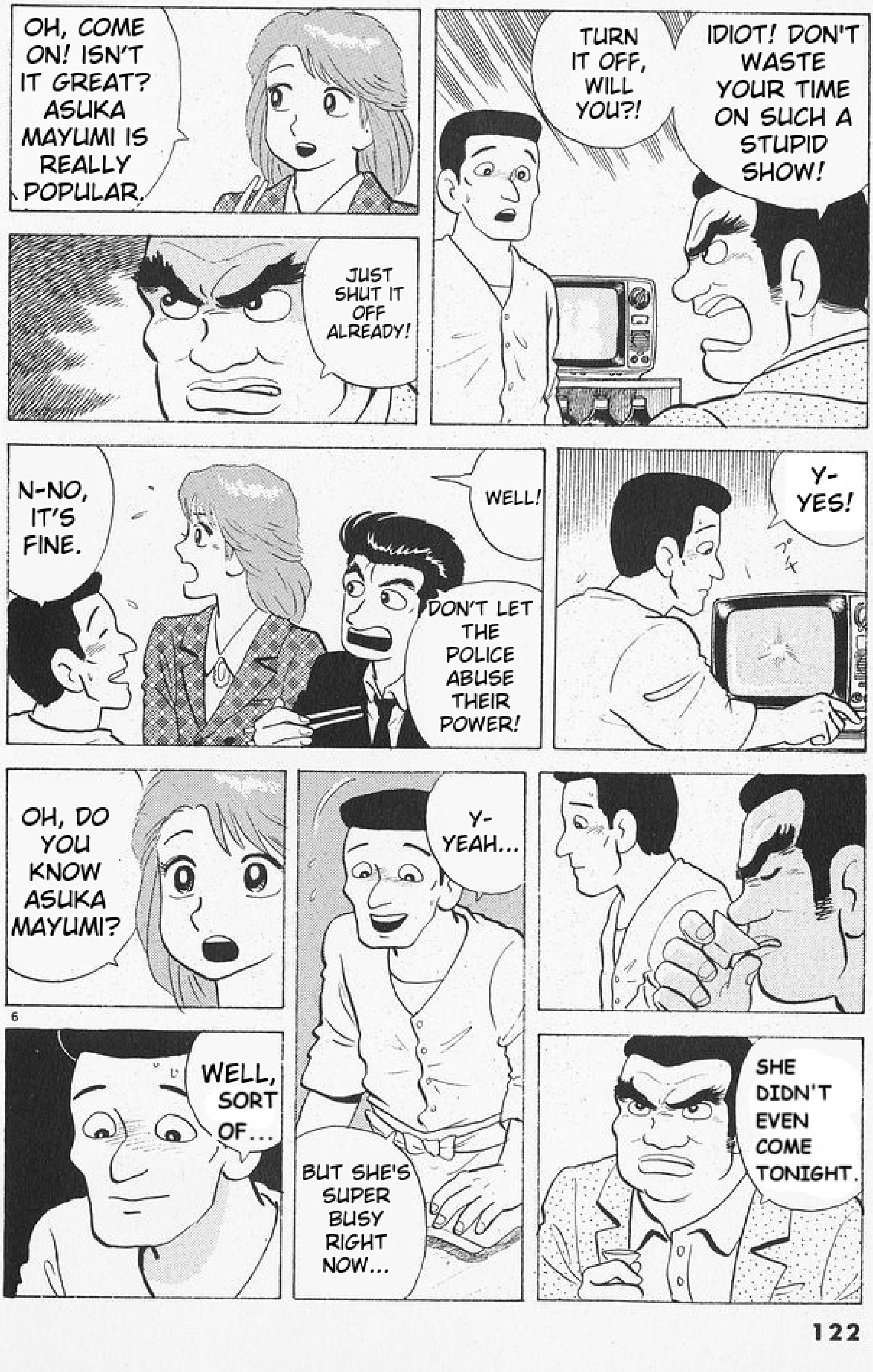

TOKYO, FUKAGAWA
I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE KIND OF PLACE I'D NORMALLY TAKE YOU GUYS...
BUT IT'S THE OWNER'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF BEING OPEN...
AND I'VE KNOWN YOU TWO ALMOST THAT LONG AS WELL, SO I THOUGHT IT FITTING...
THE PLACES THE INSPECTOR TAKES US TO ARE ALWAYS QUITE THE TREAT!
OH, COME ON NOW.
YEAH, THE CROWD MAY BE A BIT ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, BUT HIS KNACK FOR PICKING DELICIOUS SPOTS IS SPOT ON!
HEY! AM I BEING PRAISED OR INSULTED HERE?
めし
半ちゃん
めし
半ちゃん

DELICIOUSNESS
UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!

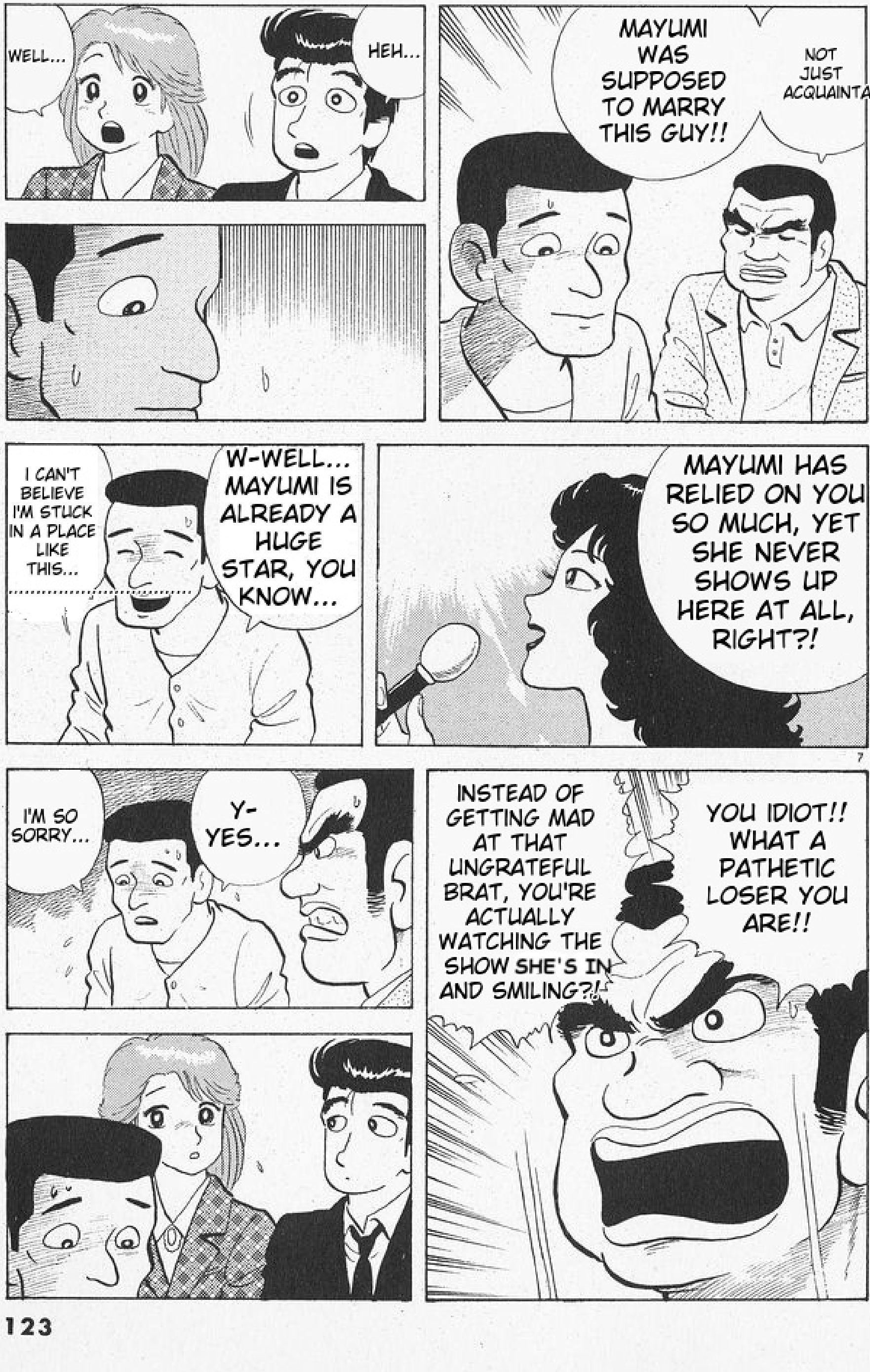

HEY!
NAKA-MATSU! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HEY, CONGRATS ON YOUR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
LET ME TAKE THAT BAG…
THIS GUY RIGHT HERE IS THE OWNER OF THIS JOINT, HANKICHI AMIHAMA!
WELCOME TO AMIHAMA, WE'RE THRILLED TO HAVE YOU HERE!
HEY, HANKICHI, JUST WHIP UP SOMETHING DELICIOUS FOR ME, WILL YA?
OK!
I LOVE TO SIP MY SAKE WITH A GOOD SIDE OF RICE!
WE'RE PRETTY DOWN-TO-EARTH FOLKS OURSELVES.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE!
WE DON'T DO ELABORATE DISHES OR HIGH-CLASS CUISINE, THAT'S JUST NOT OUR STYLE.
WE'RE JUST A SIMPLE ONE-BOWL EATERY, SO DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING FANCY.

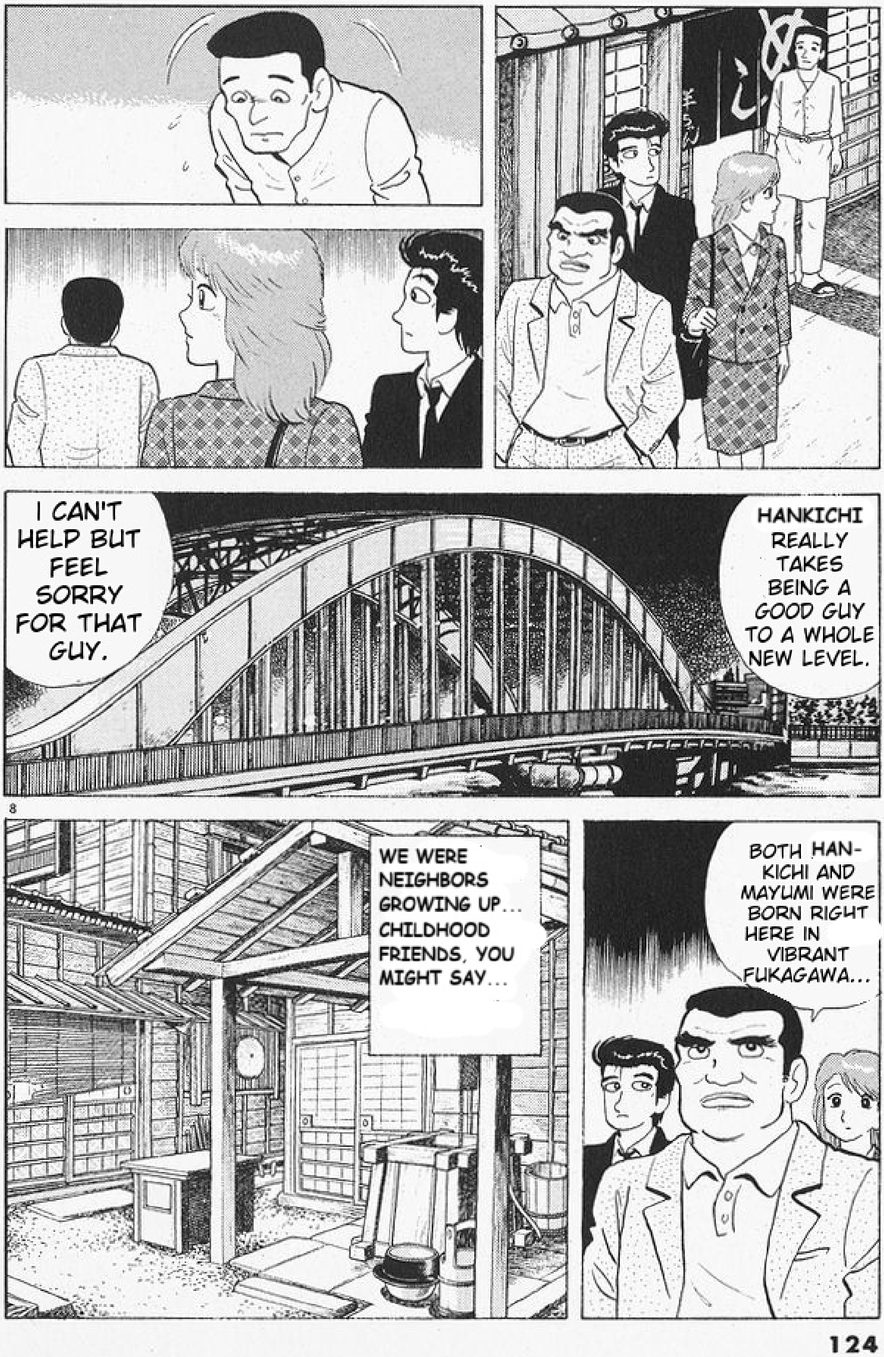

THIS IS A STEW OF TARO AND LOTUS ROOT.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S SOAKED IN FLAVOR!
MMMMMM, OHHHH, THAT'S DELIGHTFUL!
IT MAY LACK FRILLS, BUT IT'S GOT AN HONEST, COMFORTING TASTE.
IT GIVES ME A WARM, NOSTALGIC FEELING WITH EVERY BITE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT'S GOLDEN-EYED SNAPPER.
I FOUND A PIECE THAT WAS JUST BURSTING WITH FLAVOR, SO I DECIDED TO STEW IT UP.
WHY IS IT THAT ONLY MY DISH HAS THE TAIL?!
I'M SORRY, BUT THIS IS ALL THERE IS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THE TAIL IS WAY MORE REFINED AND DELICIOUS!
IT'S EASY TO EAT SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE TO DIG AROUND IN THE HEAD!


DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!
WELL THEN, SWITCH IT UP FOR ME.
HOW DARE YOU!
ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGEOUS!!
チッ
EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.
カチ
NEXT UP, LET'S HAVE ASUKA MAYUMI SERENADE US!
THE SONG IS 'MARIE OF THE HARBOR'!

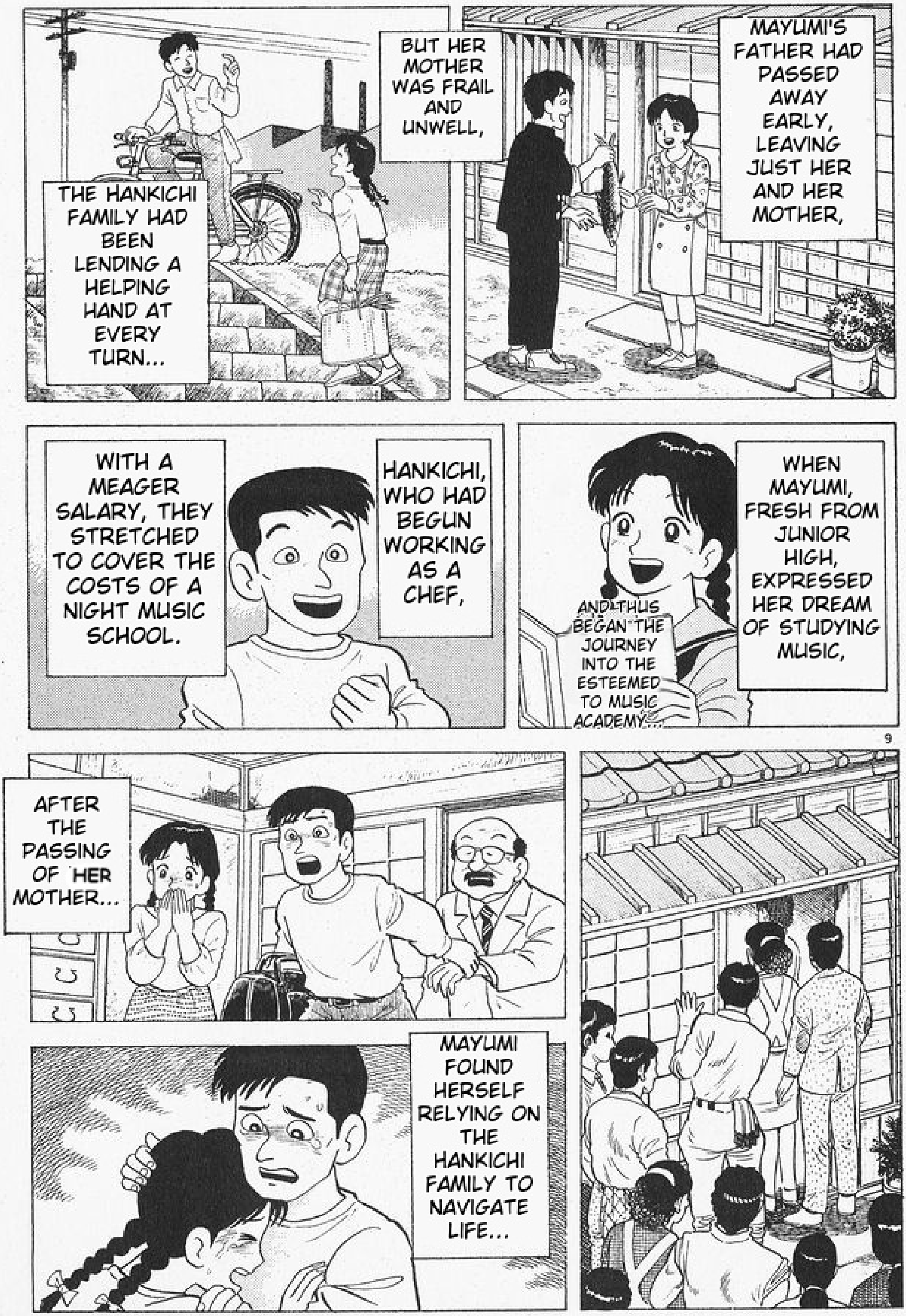

IDIOT! DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON SUCH A STUPID SHOW!
TURN IT OFF, WILL YOU?!
OH, COME ON! ISN'T IT GREAT? ASUKA MAYUMI IS REALLY POPULAR.
JUST SHUT IT OFF ALREADY!
Y- YES!
プチ
WELL!
DON'T LET THE POLICE ABUSE THEIR POWER!
N-NO, IT'S FINE.
OH, DO YOU KNOW ASUKA MAYUMI?
WELL, SORT OF...
Y- YEAH...
BUT SHE'S SUPER BUSY RIGHT NOW...
SHE DIDN'T EVEN COME TONIGHT.

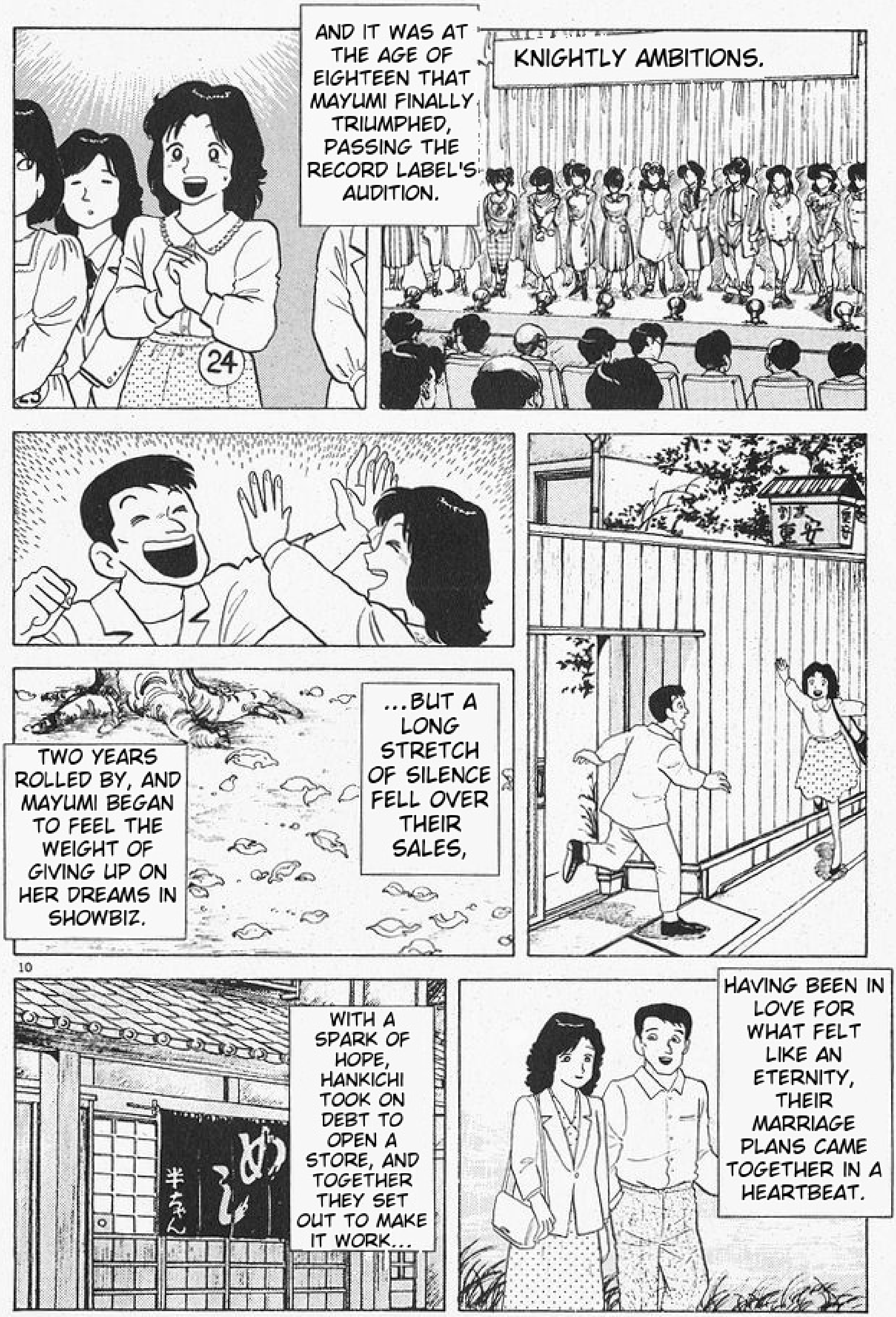
DELICIOUSNESS
UNLEASHED, VOLUME
15!

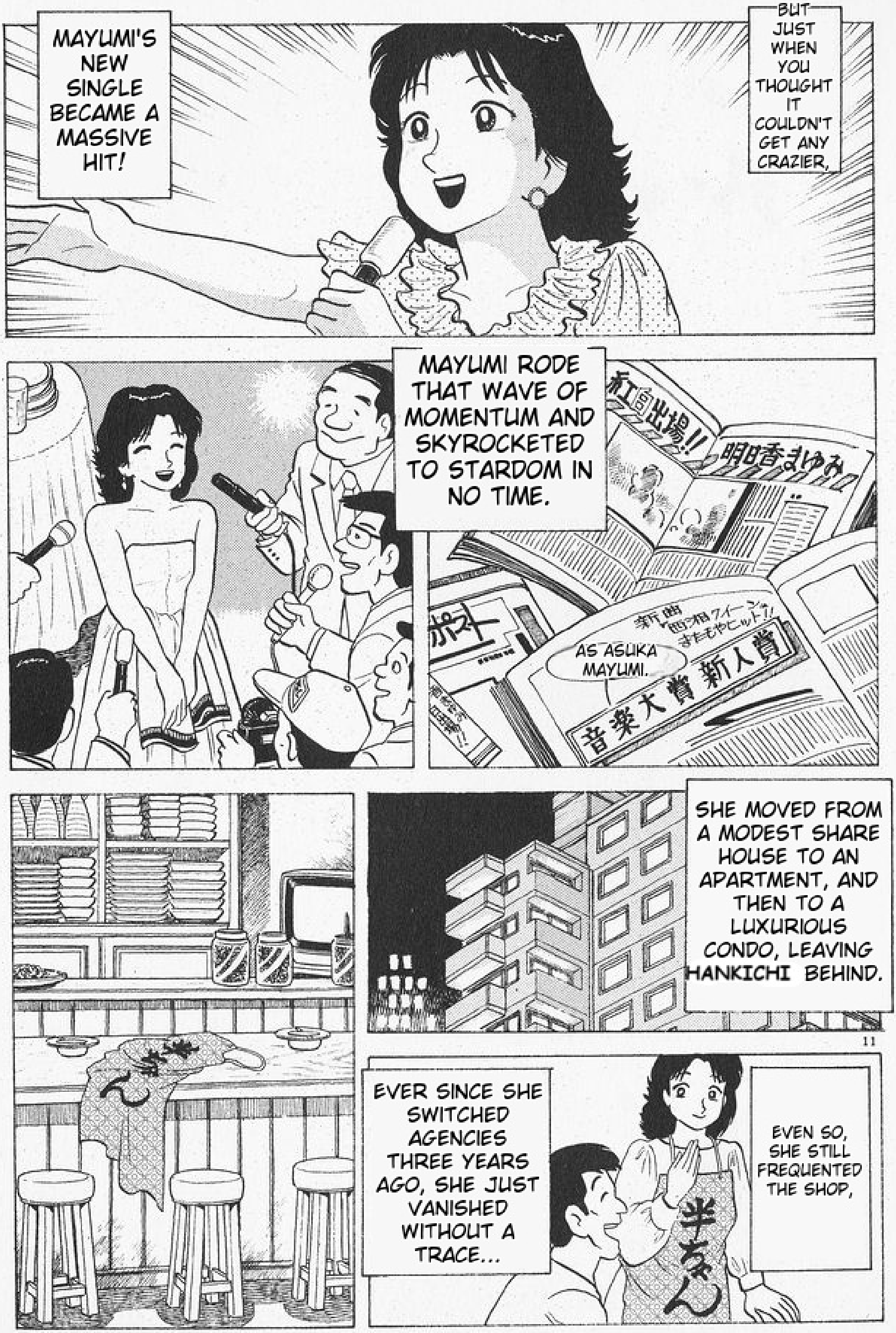

NOT JUST ACQUAINTANCES!
MAYUMI WAS SUPPOSED TO MARRY THIS GUY!!
HEH...
WELL...
MAYUMI HAS RELIED ON YOU SO MUCH, YET SHE NEVER SHOWS UP HERE AT ALL, RIGHT?!
W-WELL... MAYUMI IS ALREADY A HUGE STAR, YOU KNOW...
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M STUCK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
7
YOU IDIOT!! WHAT A PATHETIC LOSER YOU ARE!!
INSTEAD OF GETTING MAD AT THAT UNGRATEFUL BRAT, YOU'RE ACTUALLY WATCHING THE SHOW SHE'S IN AND SMILING?!
Y-YES...
I'M SO SORRY...

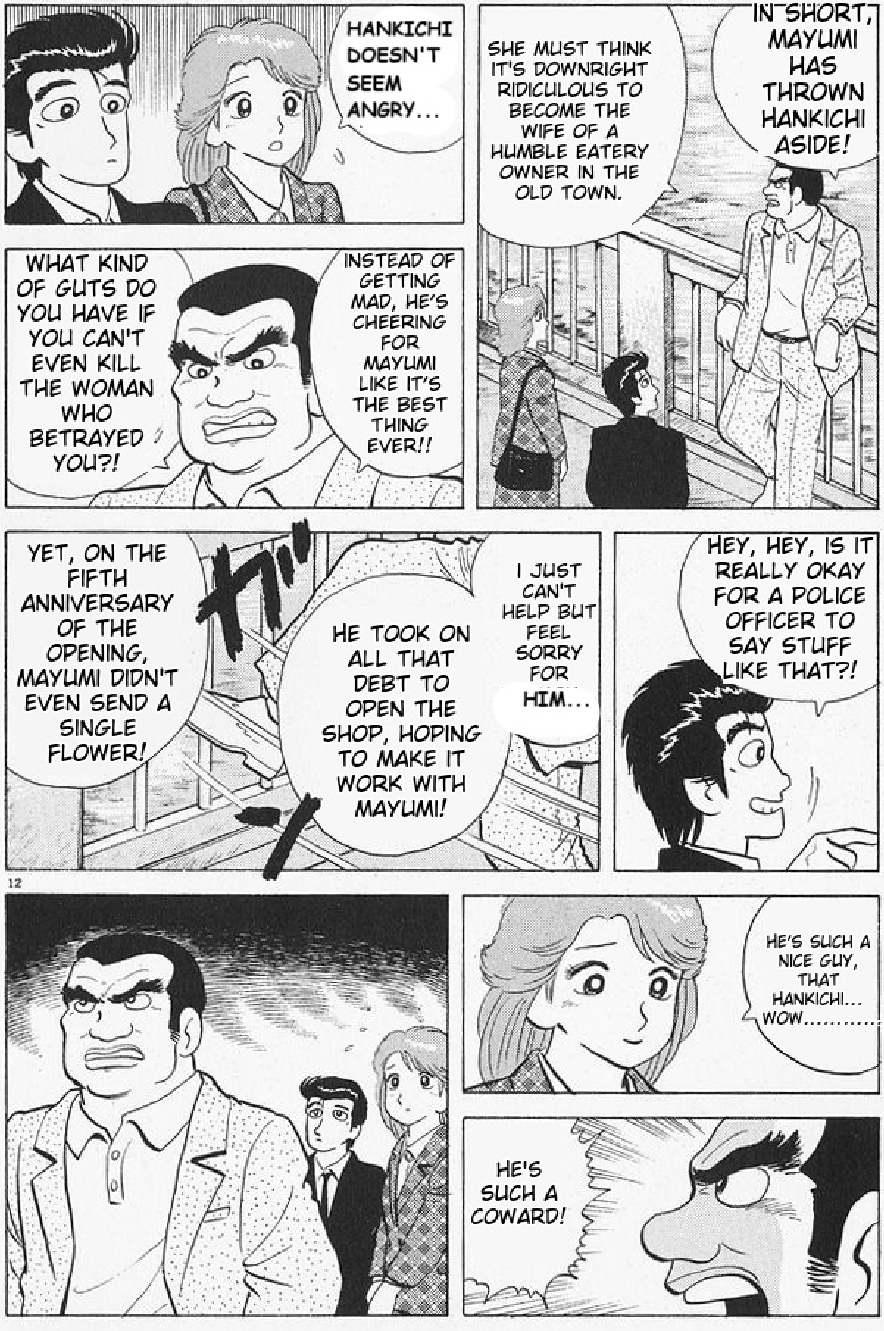

HANKICHI REALLY TAKES BEING A GOOD GUY TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.
I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR THAT GUY.
BOTH HANKICHI AND MAYUMI WERE BORN RIGHT HERE IN VIBRANT FUKAGAWA...
WE WERE NEIGHBORS GROWING UP... CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, YOU MIGHT SAY...

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!

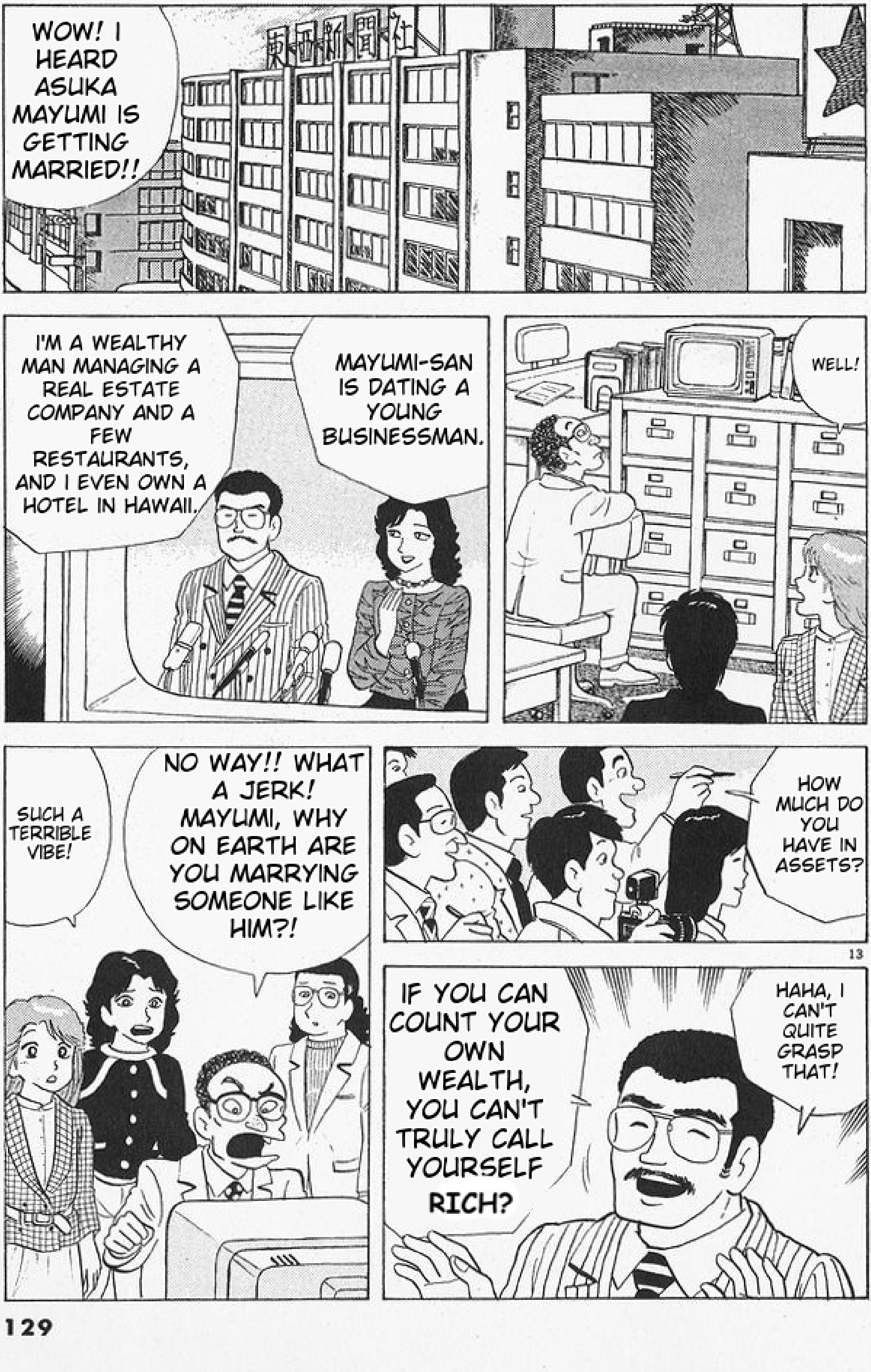

MAYUMI'S FATHER HAD PASSED AWAY EARLY, LEAVING JUST HER AND HER MOTHER,
BUT HER MOTHER WAS FRAIL AND UNWELL,
THE HANKICHI FAMILY HAD BEEN LENDING A HELPING HAND AT EVERY TURN...
WHEN MAYUMI, FRESH FROM JUNIOR HIGH, EXPRESSED HER DREAM OF STUDYING MUSIC,
AND THUS BEGAN THE JOURNEY INTO THE ESTEEMED TO MUSIC ACADEMY...
HANKICHI, WHO HAD BEGUN WORKING AS A CHEF,
WITH A MEAGER SALARY, THEY STRETCHED TO COVER THE COSTS OF A NIGHT MUSIC SCHOOL.
AFTER THE PASSING OF HER MOTHER...
MAYUMI FOUND HERSELF RELYING ON THE HANKICHI FAMILY TO NAVIGATE LIFE...

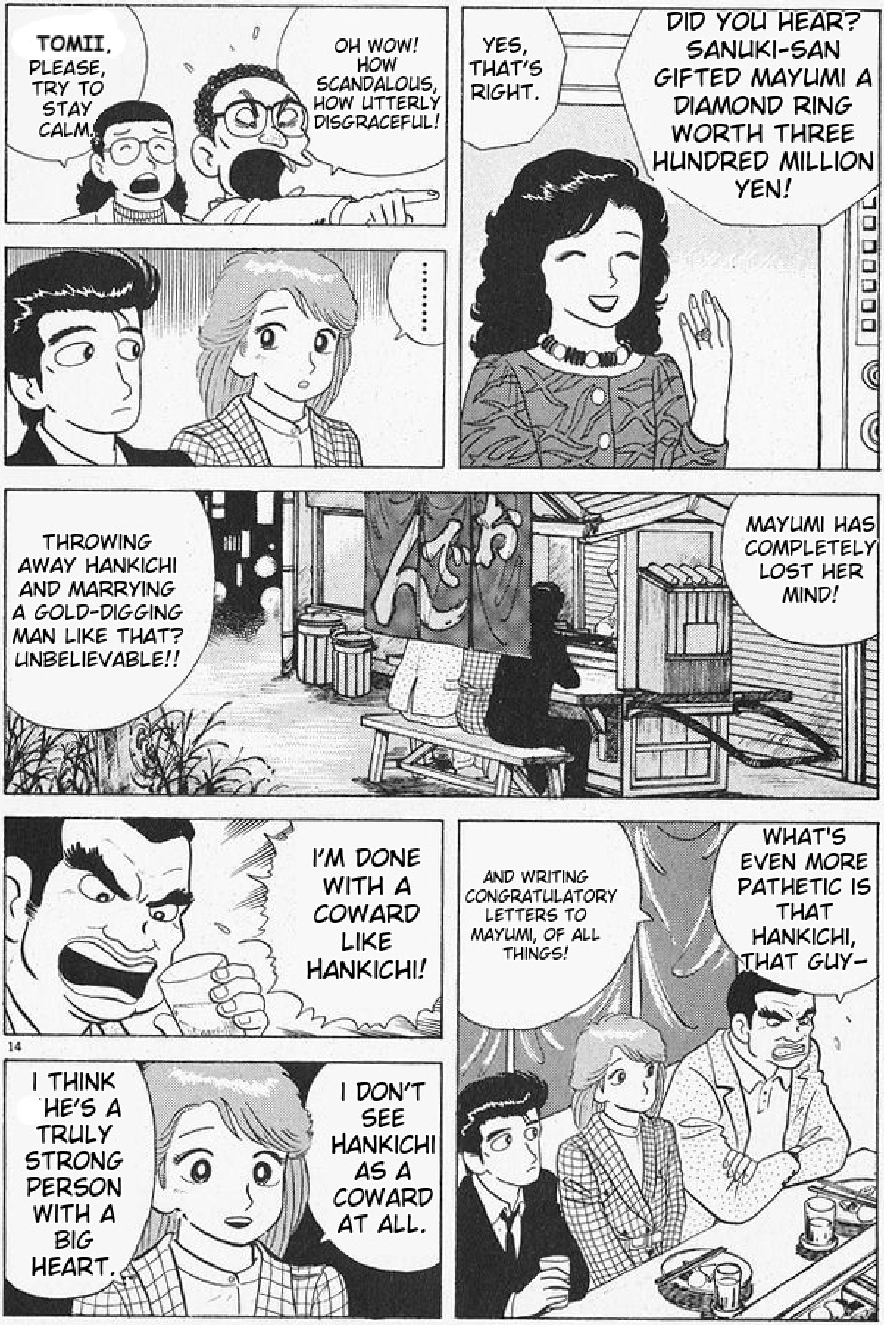

KNIGHTLY AMBITIONS.
AND IT WAS AT THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN THAT MAYUMI FINALLY TRIUMPHED, PASSING THE RECORD LABEL'S AUDITION.
24
...BUT A LONG STRETCH OF SILENCE FELL OVER THEIR SALES,
TWO YEARS ROLLED BY, AND MAYUMI BEGAN TO FEEL THE WEIGHT OF GIVING UP ON HER DREAMS IN SHOWBIZ.
HAVING BEEN IN LOVE FOR WHAT FELT LIKE AN ETERNITY, THEIR MARRIAGE PLANS CAME TOGETHER IN A HEARTBEAT.
WITH A SPARK OF HOPE, HANKICHI TOOK ON DEBT TO OPEN A STORE, AND TOGETHER THEY SET OUT TO MAKE IT WORK...
めし
半ちゃん

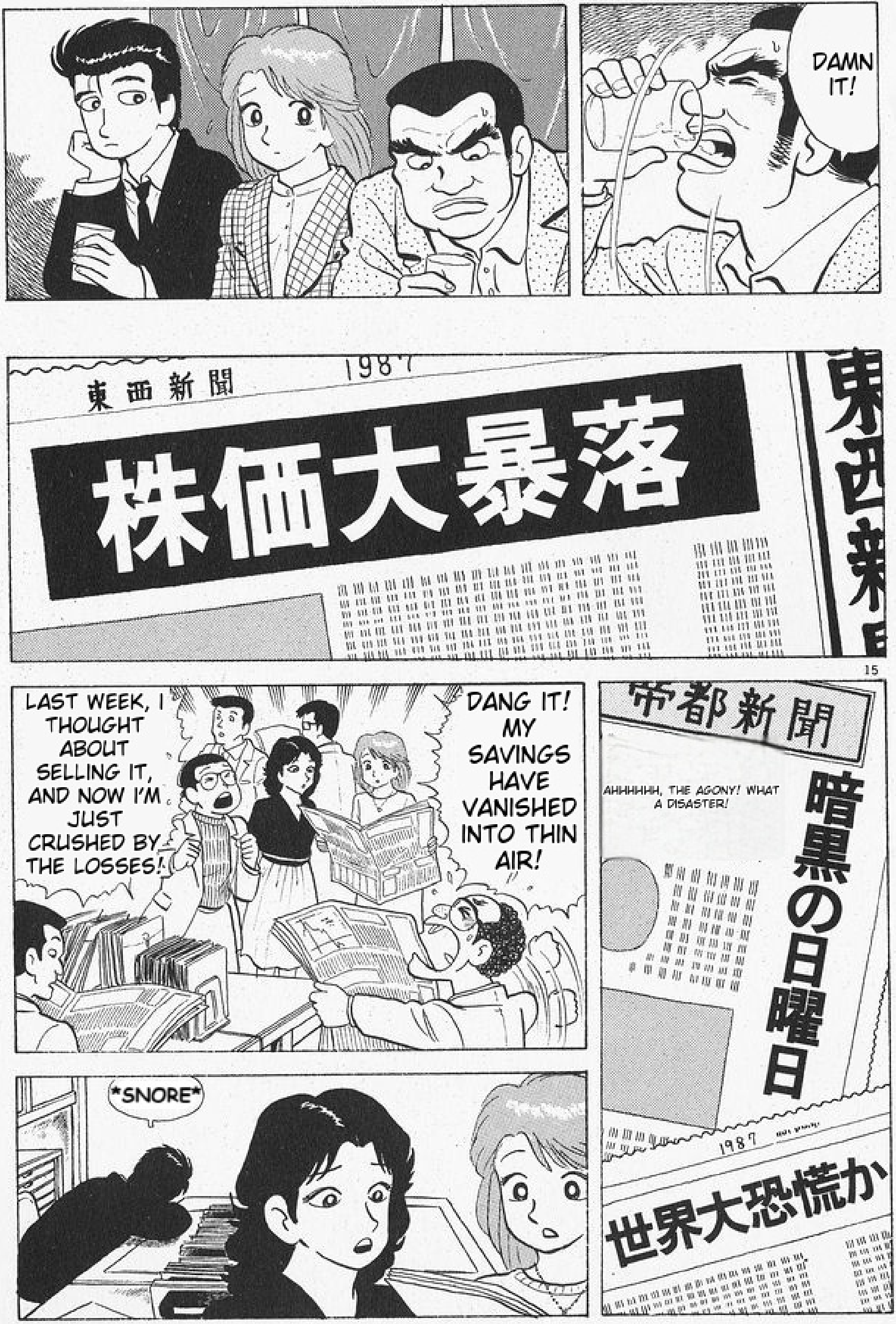

BUT JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT COULDN'T GET ANY CRAZIER,
MAYUMI'S NEW SINGLE BECAME A MASSIVE HIT!
MAYUMI RODE THAT WAVE OF MOMENTUM AND SKYROCKETED TO STARDOM IN NO TIME.
紅白出場!!
明日香まゆみ
またもやヒット!!
音楽大賞 新人賞
AS ASUKA MAYUMI.
ポスト
SHE MOVED FROM A MODEST SHARE HOUSE TO AN APARTMENT, AND THEN TO A LUXURIOUS CONDO, LEAVING HANKICHI BEHIND.
11
EVEN SO, SHE STILL FREQUENTED THE SHOP,
半ちゃん
EVER SINCE SHE SWITCHED AGENCIES THREE YEARS AGO, SHE JUST VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE...


IN SHORT, MAYUMI HAS THROWN HANKICHI ASIDE!
SHE MUST THINK IT'S DOWNRIGHT RIDICULOUS TO BECOME THE WIFE OF A HUMBLE EATERY OWNER IN THE OLD TOWN.
HANKICHI DOESN'T SEEM ANGRY…
INSTEAD OF GETTING MAD, HE'S CHEERING FOR MAYUMI LIKE IT'S THE BEST THING EVER!!
WHAT KIND OF GUTS DO YOU HAVE IF YOU CAN'T EVEN KILL THE WOMAN WHO BETRAYED YOU?!
HEY, HEY, IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR A POLICE OFFICER TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT?!
I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL SORRY FOR HIM…
HE TOOK ON ALL THAT DEBT TO OPEN THE SHOP, HOPING TO MAKE IT WORK WITH MAYUMI!
ガッ
YET, ON THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING, MAYUMI DIDN'T EVEN SEND A SINGLE FLOWER!
HE'S SUCH A NICE GUY, THAT HANKICHI… WOW…………
HE'S SUCH A COWARD!

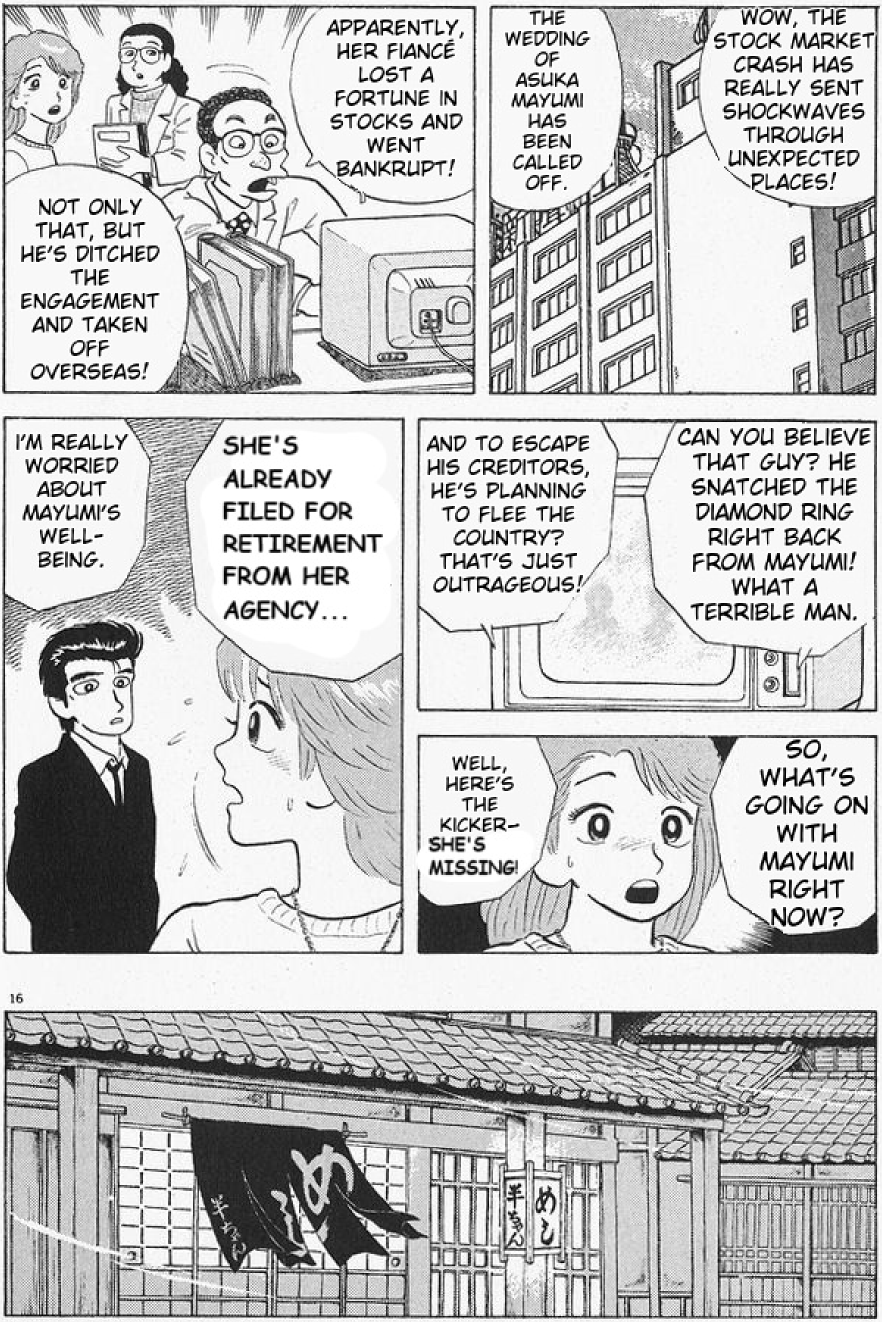
DELICIOUSNESS
UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!


東西新聞社
WOW! I HEARD ASUKA MAYUMI IS GETTING MARRIED!!
WELL!
MAYUMI-SAN IS DATING A YOUNG BUSINESSMAN.
I'M A WEALTHY MAN MANAGING A REAL ESTATE COMPANY AND A FEW RESTAURANTS, AND I EVEN OWN A HOTEL IN HAWAII.
HOW MUCH DO YOU HAVE IN ASSETS?
HAHA, I CAN'T QUITE GRASP THAT!
IF YOU CAN COUNT YOUR OWN WEALTH, YOU CAN'T TRULY CALL YOURSELF RICH?
NO WAY!! WHAT A JERK! MAYUMI, WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU MARRYING SOMEONE LIKE HIM?!
SUCH A TERRIBLE VIBE!


DID YOU HEAR? SANUKI-SAN GIFTED MAYUMI A DIAMOND RING WORTH THREE HUNDRED MILLION YEN!
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
OH WOW! HOW SCANDALOUS, HOW UTTERLY DISGRACEFUL!
TOMII, PLEASE, TRY TO STAY CALM.
……
MAYUMI HAS COMPLETELY LOST HER MIND!
THROWING AWAY HANKICHI AND MARRYING A GOLD-DIGGING MAN LIKE THAT? UNBELIEVABLE!!
WHAT'S EVEN MORE PATHETIC IS THAT HANKICHI, THAT GUY–
AND WRITING CONGRATULATORY LETTERS TO MAYUMI, OF ALL THINGS!
I'M DONE WITH A COWARD LIKE HANKICHI!
I DON'T SEE HANKICHI AS A COWARD AT ALL.
I THINK HE'S A TRULY STRONG PERSON WITH A BIG HEART.


DAMN IT!
東西新聞
1987
株価大暴落
東西新
15
帝都新聞
AHHHHHH, THE AGONY! WHAT A DISASTER!
暗黒の日曜日
1987
世界大恐慌か
DANG IT! MY SAVINGS HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR!
LAST WEEK, I THOUGHT ABOUT SELLING IT, AND NOW I'M JUST CRUSHED BY THE LOSSES!
SNORE

*TL NOTE: THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINE IS REFERENCING THE REAL LIFE OCTOBER 1987 STOCK MARKET CRASH. LUCKILY FOR JAPAN, THIS CRASH WAS MILD COMPARED TO HOW IT AFFECTED SOME OTHER NATIONS SUCH AS NEW ZEALAND, WHOSE RECESSION BECAUSE OF IT LASTED INTO THE 90S...


WOW, THE STOCK MARKET CRASH HAS REALLY SENT SHOCKWAVES THROUGH UNEXPECTED PLACES!
THE WEDDING OF ASUKA MAYUMI HAS BEEN CALLED OFF.
APPARENTLY, HER FIANCÉ LOST A FORTUNE IN STOCKS AND WENT BANKRUPT!
NOT ONLY THAT, BUT HE'S DITCHED THE ENGAGEMENT AND TAKEN OFF OVERSEAS!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT GUY? HE SNATCHED THE DIAMOND RING RIGHT BACK FROM MAYUMI! WHAT A TERRIBLE MAN.
AND TO ESCAPE HIS CREDITORS, HE'S PLANNING TO FLEE THE COUNTRY? THAT'S JUST OUTRAGEOUS!
SO, WHAT'S GOING ON WITH MAYUMI RIGHT NOW?
WELL, HERE'S THE KICKER- SHE'S MISSING!
SHE'S ALREADY FILED FOR RETIREMENT FROM HER AGENCY...
I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT MAYUMI'S WELL-BEING.
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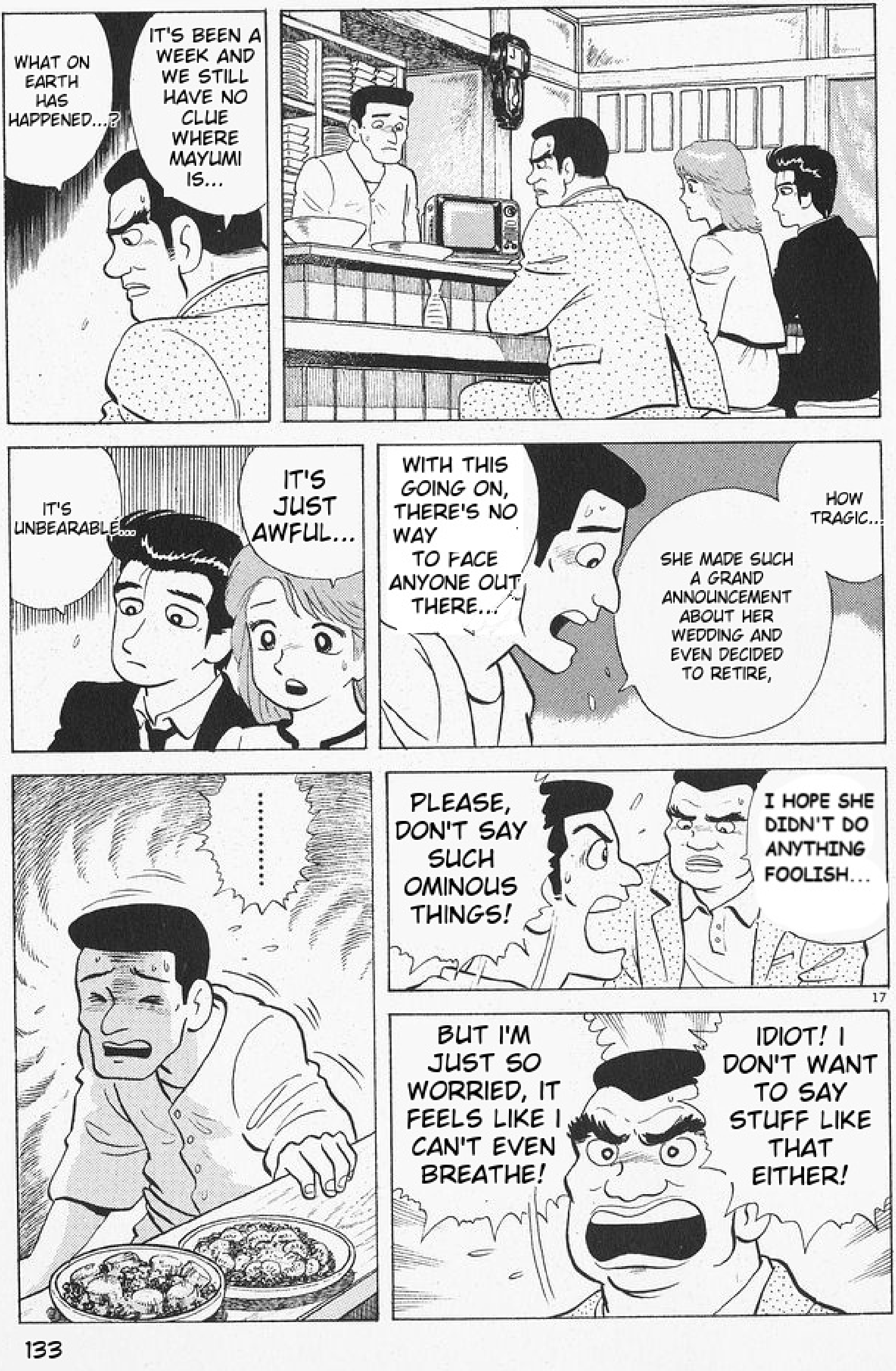
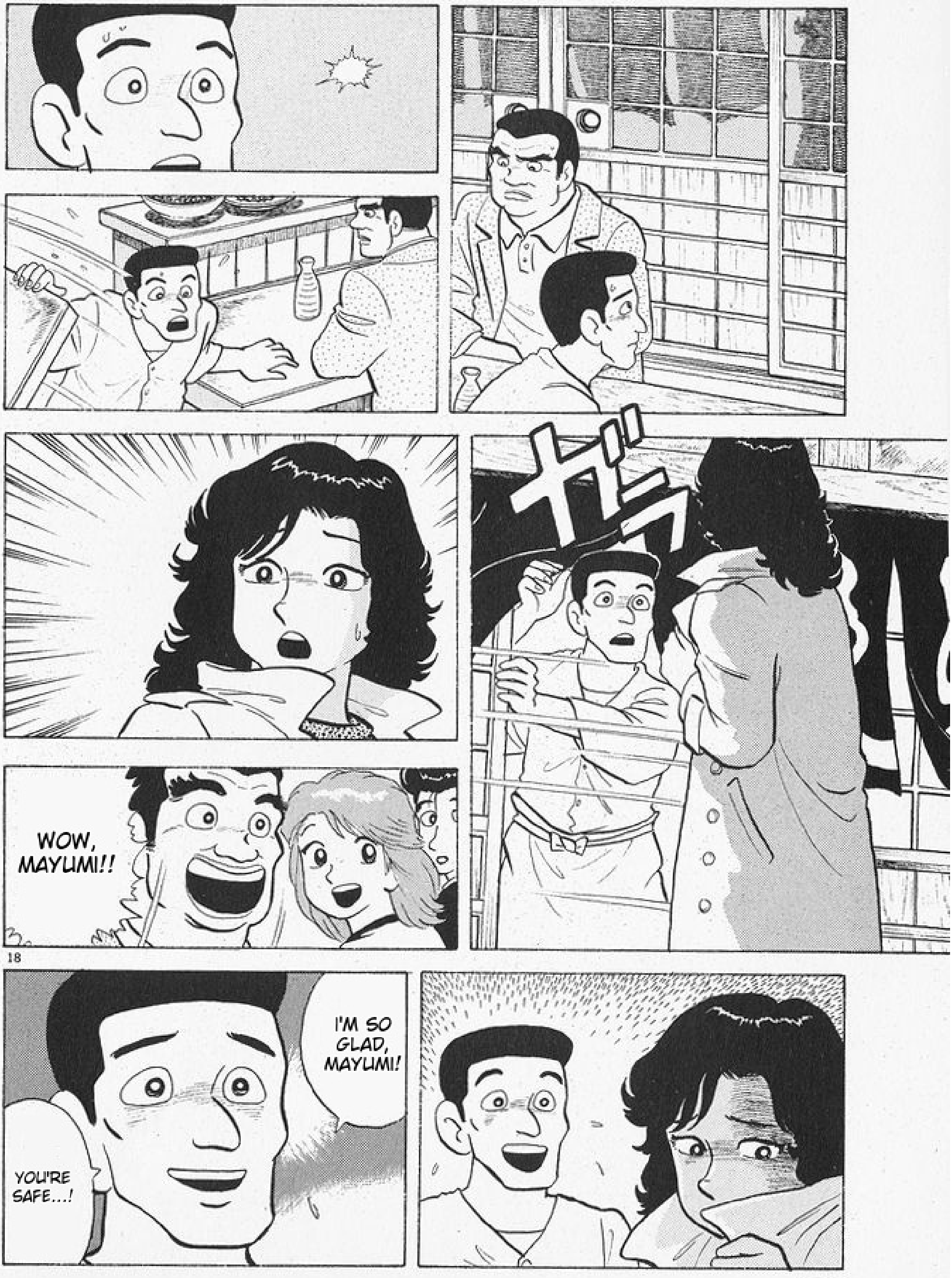
DELICIOUSNESS
UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!


IT'S BEEN A WEEK AND WE STILL HAVE NO CLUE WHERE MAYUMI IS...
WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED...?
HOW TRAGIC...
SHE MADE SUCH A GRAND ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT HER WEDDING AND EVEN DECIDED TO RETIRE,
WITH THIS GOING ON, THERE'S NO WAY TO FACE ANYONE OUT THERE...
IT'S JUST AWFUL...
IT'S UNBEARABLE...
I HOPE SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING FOOLISH...
PLEASE, DON'T SAY SUCH OMINOUS THINGS!
IDIOT! I DON'T WANT TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT EITHER!
BUT I'M JUST SO WORRIED, IT FEELS LIKE I CAN'T EVEN BREATHE!
......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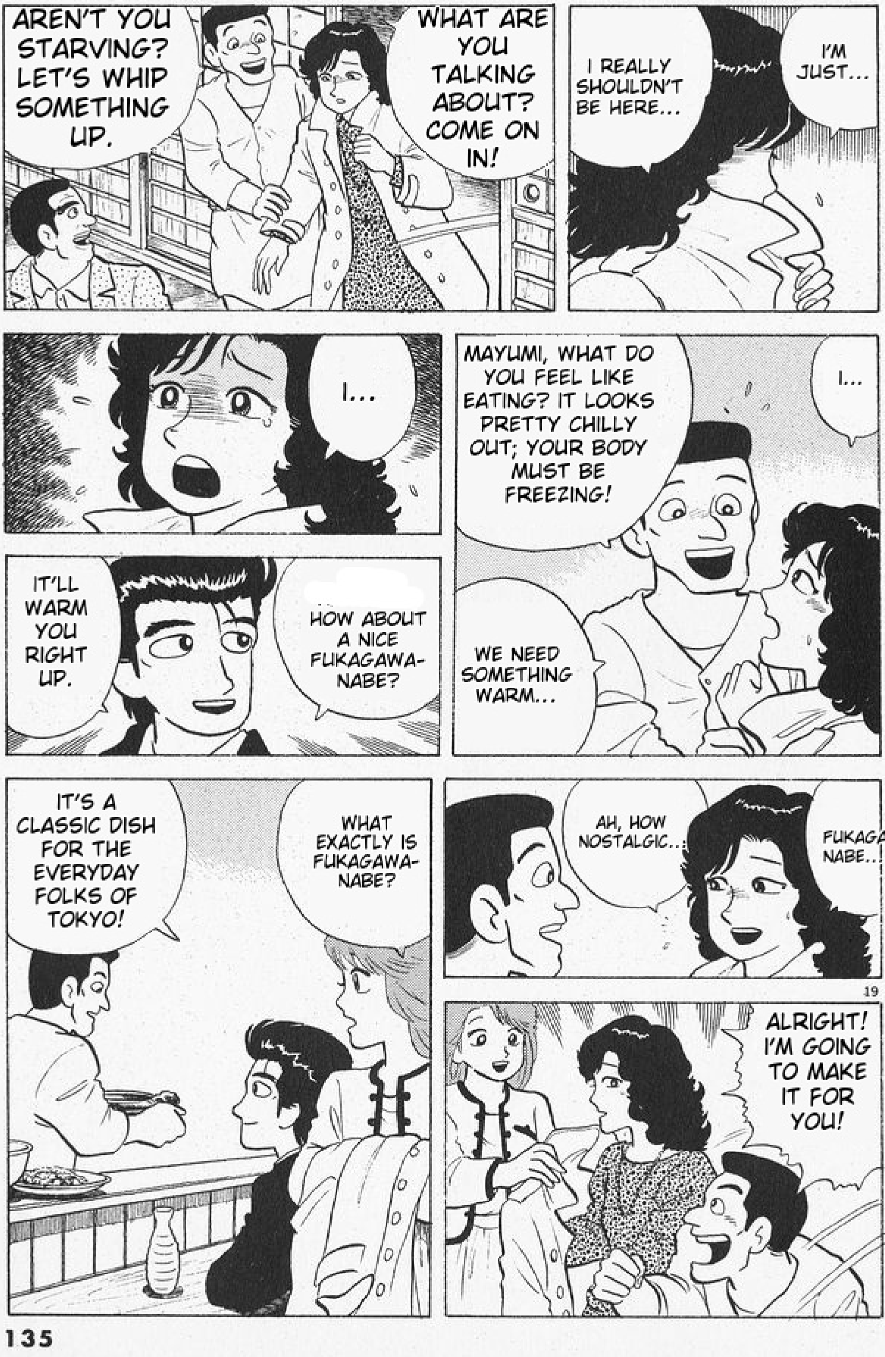
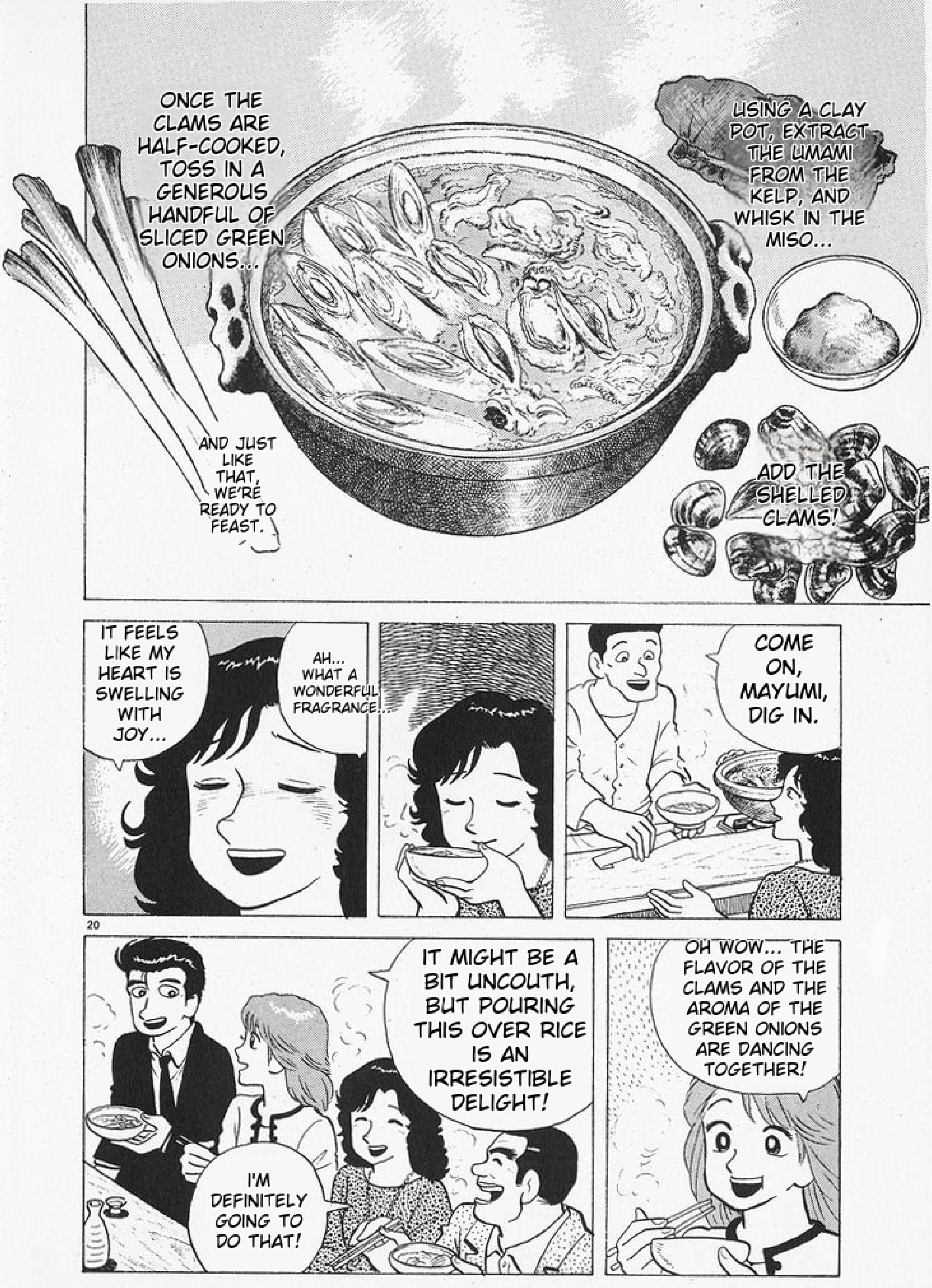
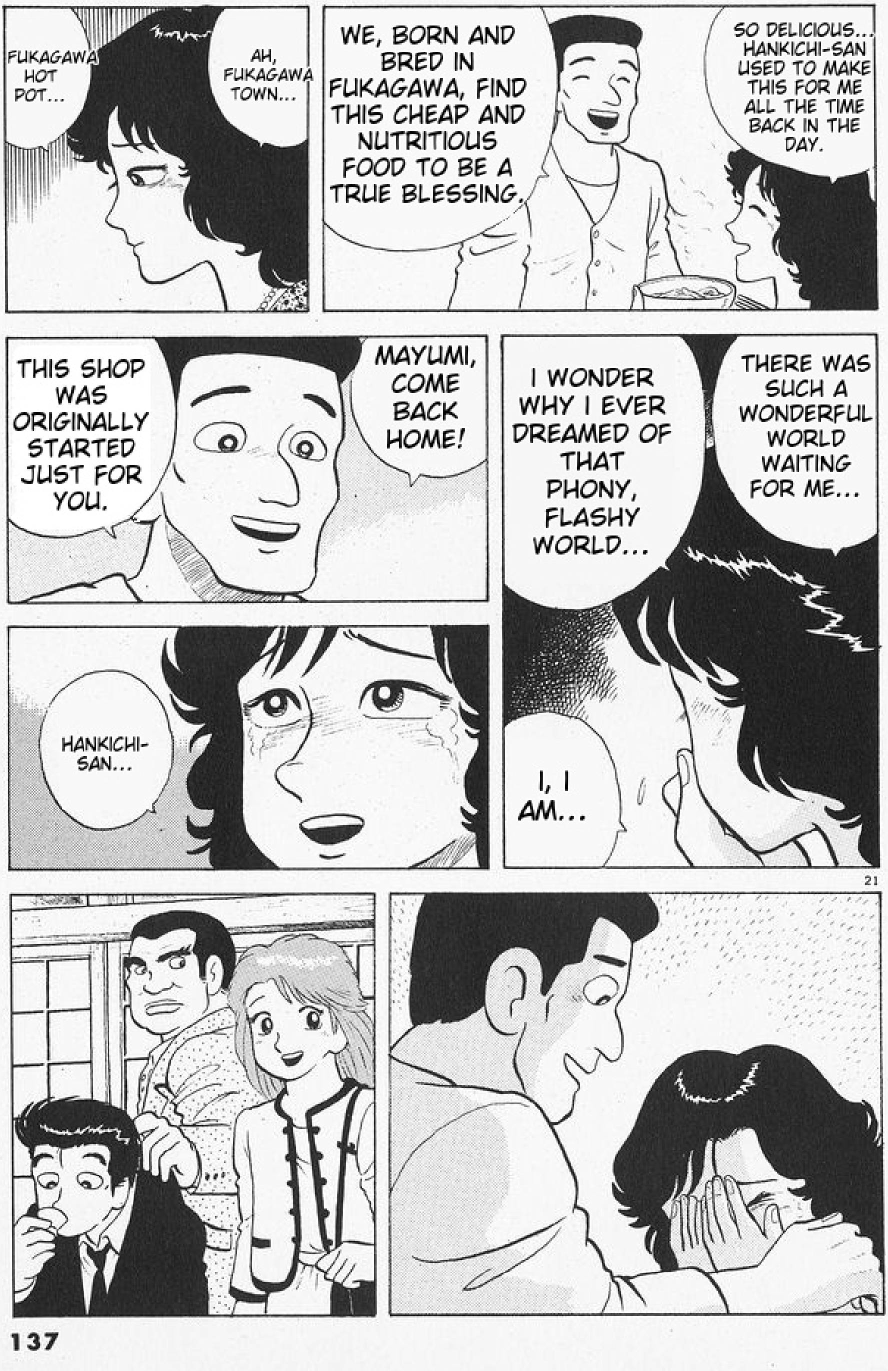
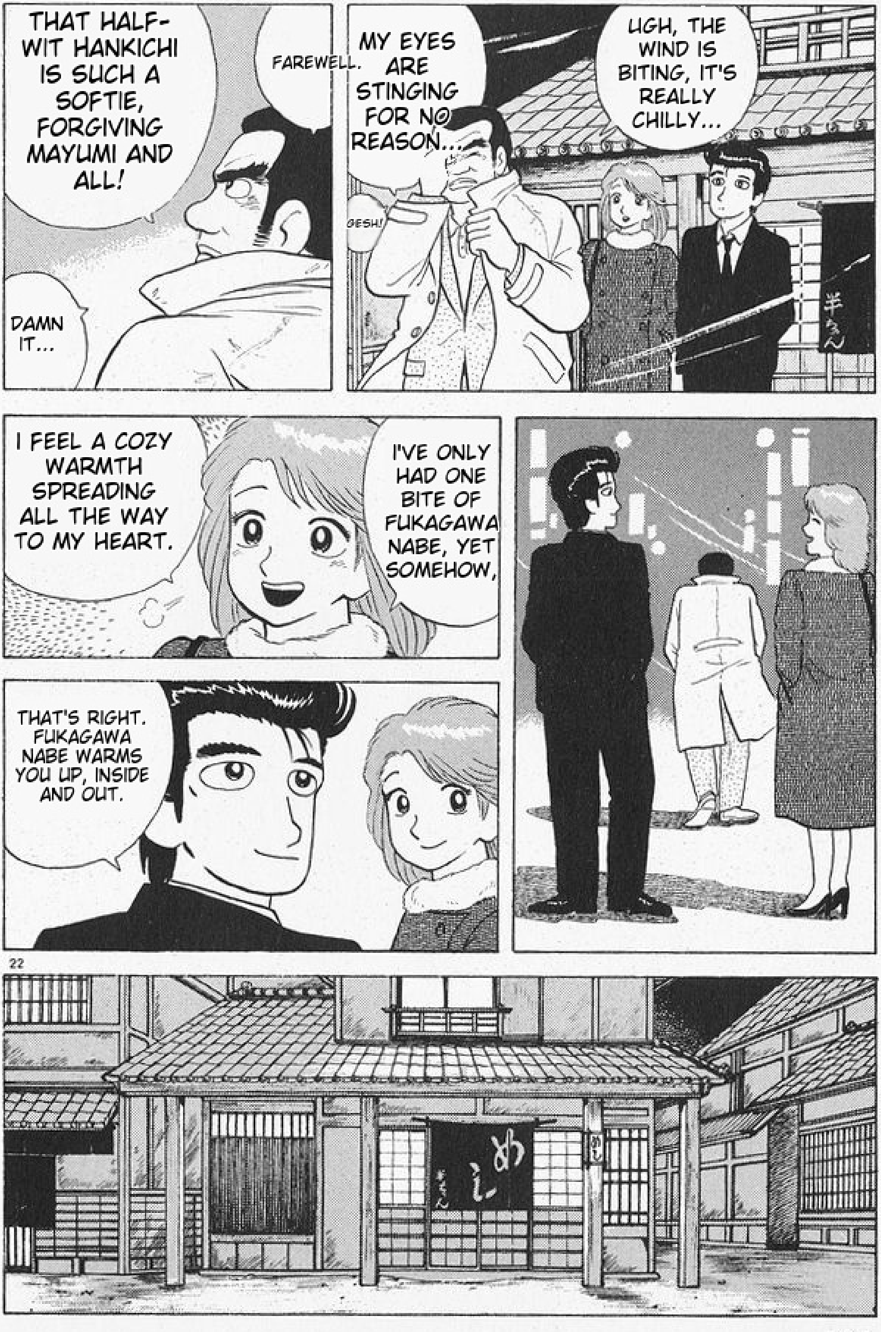
WOW, MAYUMI!!
I'M SO GLAD, MAYUMI!
YOU'RE SAFE...!


I'M JUST...
I REALLY SHOULDN'T BE HERE...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? COME ON IN!
AREN'T YOU STARVING? LET'S WHIP SOMETHING UP.
I...
MAYUMI, WHAT DO YOU FEEL LIKE EATING? IT LOOKS PRETTY CHILLY OUT; YOUR BODY MUST BE FREEZING!
WE NEED SOMETHING WARM...
I...
HOW ABOUT A NICE FUKAGAWA-NABE?
IT'LL WARM YOU RIGHT UP.
FUKAGAWA-NABE...
AH, HOW NOSTALGIC...
WHAT EXACTLY IS FUKAGAWA-NABE?
IT'S A CLASSIC DISH FOR THE EVERYDAY FOLKS OF TOKYO!
19
ALRIGHT! I'M GOING TO MAKE IT FOR YOU!


USING A CLAY POT, EXTRACT THE UMAMI FROM THE KELP, AND WHISK IN THE MISO...
ADD THE SHELLED CLAMS!
ONCE THE CLAMS ARE HALF-COOKED, TOSS IN A GENEROUS HANDFUL OF SLICED GREEN ONIONS...
AND JUST LIKE THAT, WE'RE READY TO FEAST.
COME ON, MAYUMI, DIG IN.
AH... WHAT A WONDERFUL FRAGRANCE...
IT FEELS LIKE MY HEART IS SWELLING WITH JOY...
20
OH WOW... THE FLAVOR OF THE CLAMS AND THE AROMA OF THE GREEN ONIONS ARE DANCING TOGETHER!
IT MIGHT BE A BIT UNCOUTH, BUT POURING THIS OVER RICE IS AN IRRESISTIBLE DELIGHT!
I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO DO THAT!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED, VOLUME 15!


SO DELICIOUS... HANKICHI-SAN USED TO MAKE THIS FOR ME ALL THE TIME BACK IN THE DAY.
WE, BORN AND BRED IN FUKAGAWA, FIND THIS CHEAP AND NUTRITIOUS FOOD TO BE A TRUE BLESSING.
AH, FUKAGAWA TOWN...
FUKAGAWA HOT POT...
THERE WAS SUCH A WONDERFUL WORLD WAITING FOR ME...
I WONDER WHY I EVER DREAMED OF THAT PHONY, FLASHY WORLD...
I, I AM...
MAYUMI, COME BACK HOME!
THIS SHOP WAS ORIGINALLY STARTED JUST FOR YOU.
HANKICHI-SAN...
...


UGH, THE WIND IS BITING, IT'S REALLY CHILLY...
MY EYES ARE STINGING FOR NO REASON...
FAREWELL.
GESH!
半ちゃん
THAT HALF-WIT HANKICHI IS SUCH A SOFTIE, FORGIVING MAYUMI AND ALL!
DAMN IT...
I'VE ONLY HAD ONE BITE OF FUKAGAWA NABE, YET SOMEHOW,
I FEEL A COZY WARMTH SPREADING ALL THE WAY TO MY HEART.
THAT'S RIGHT. FUKAGAWA NABE WARMS YOU UP, INSIDE AND OUT.
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第5話

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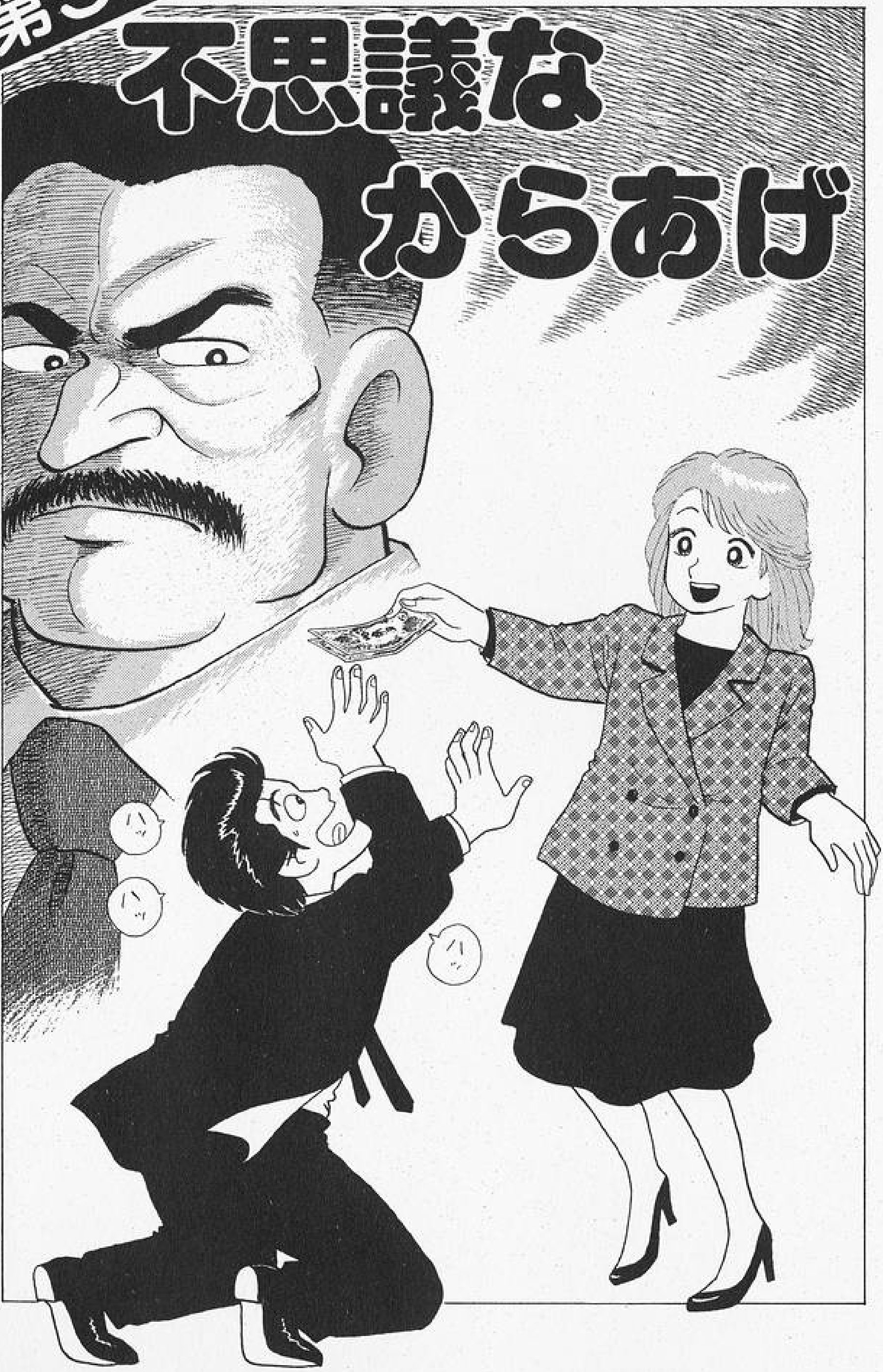
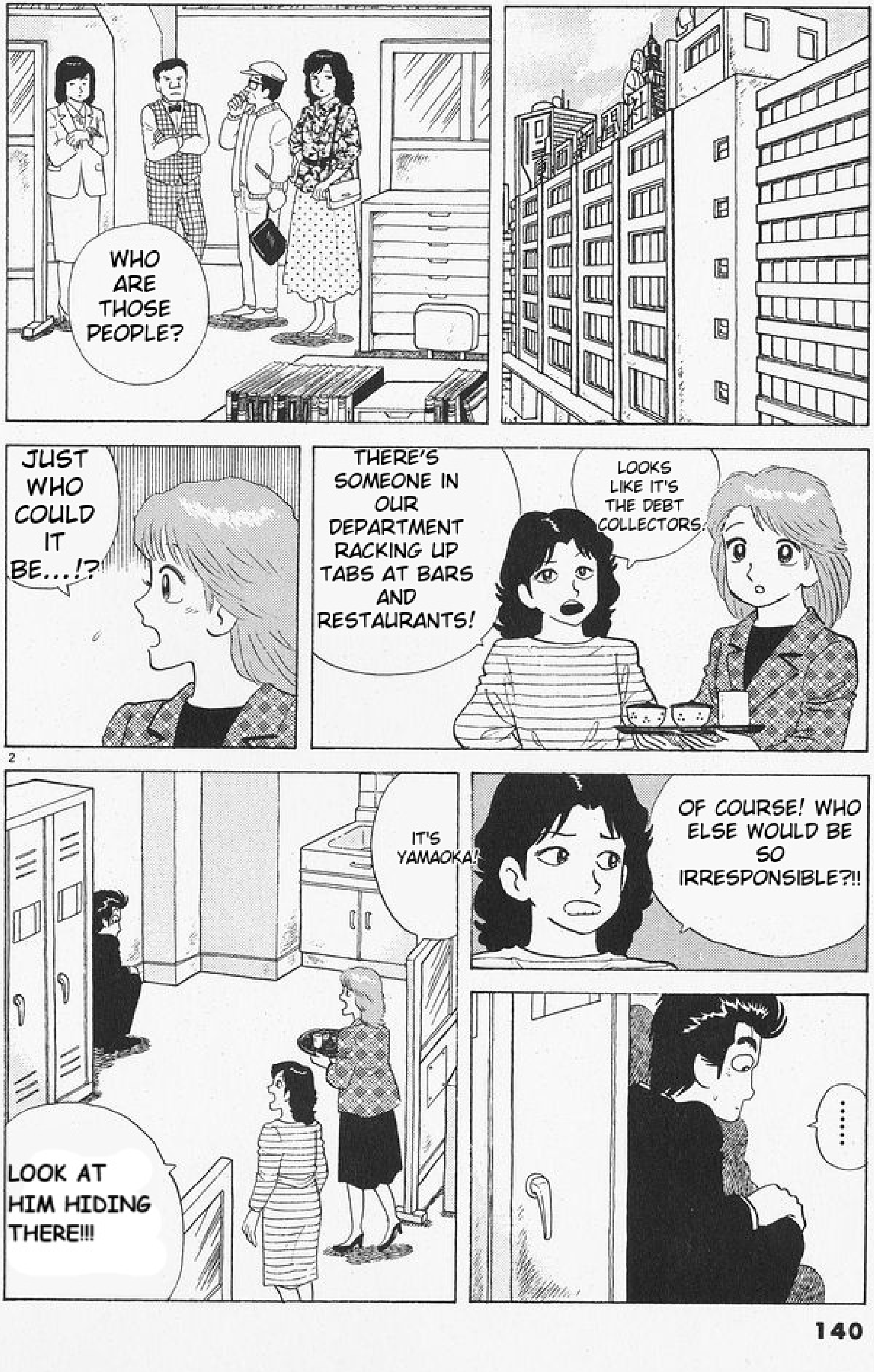
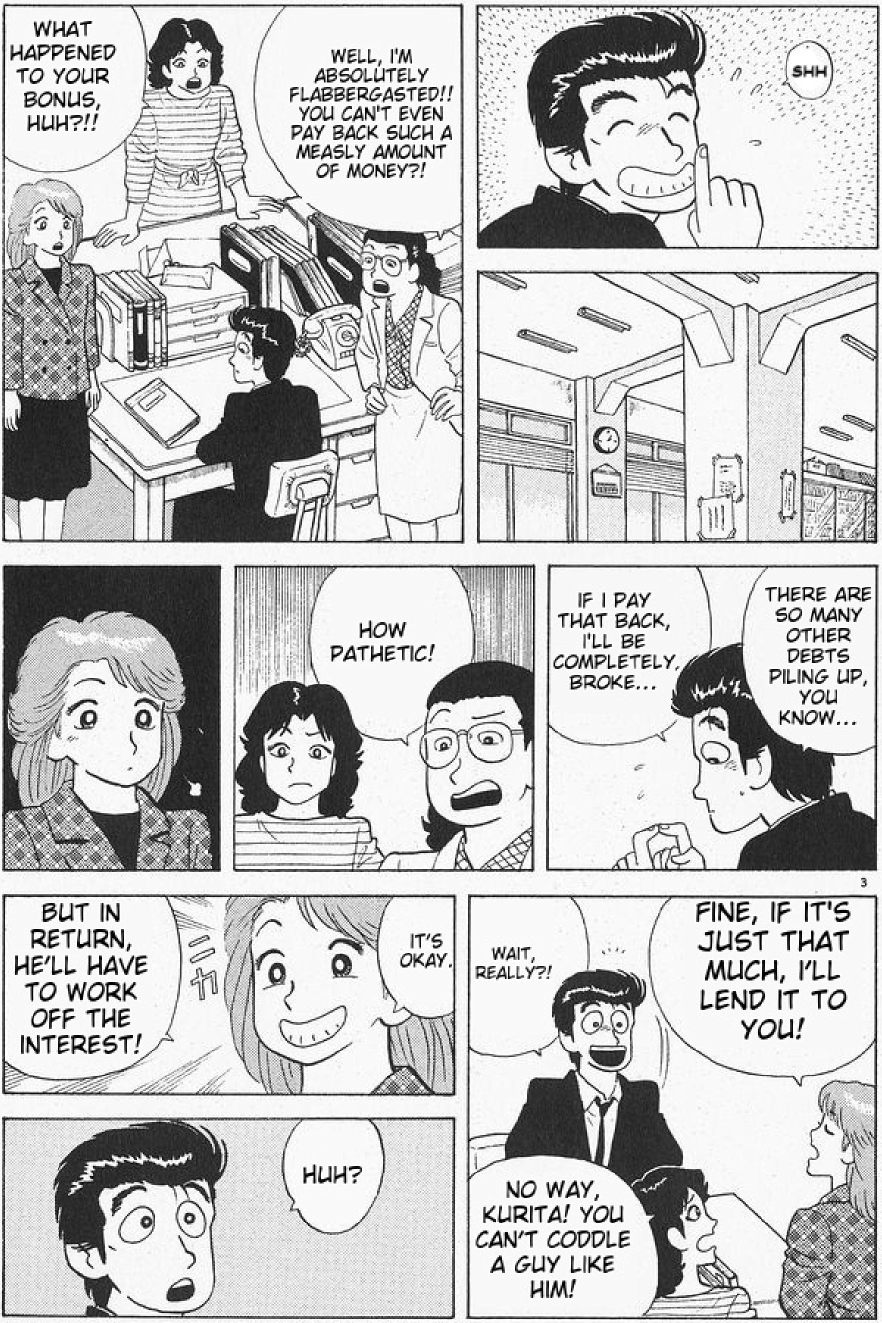
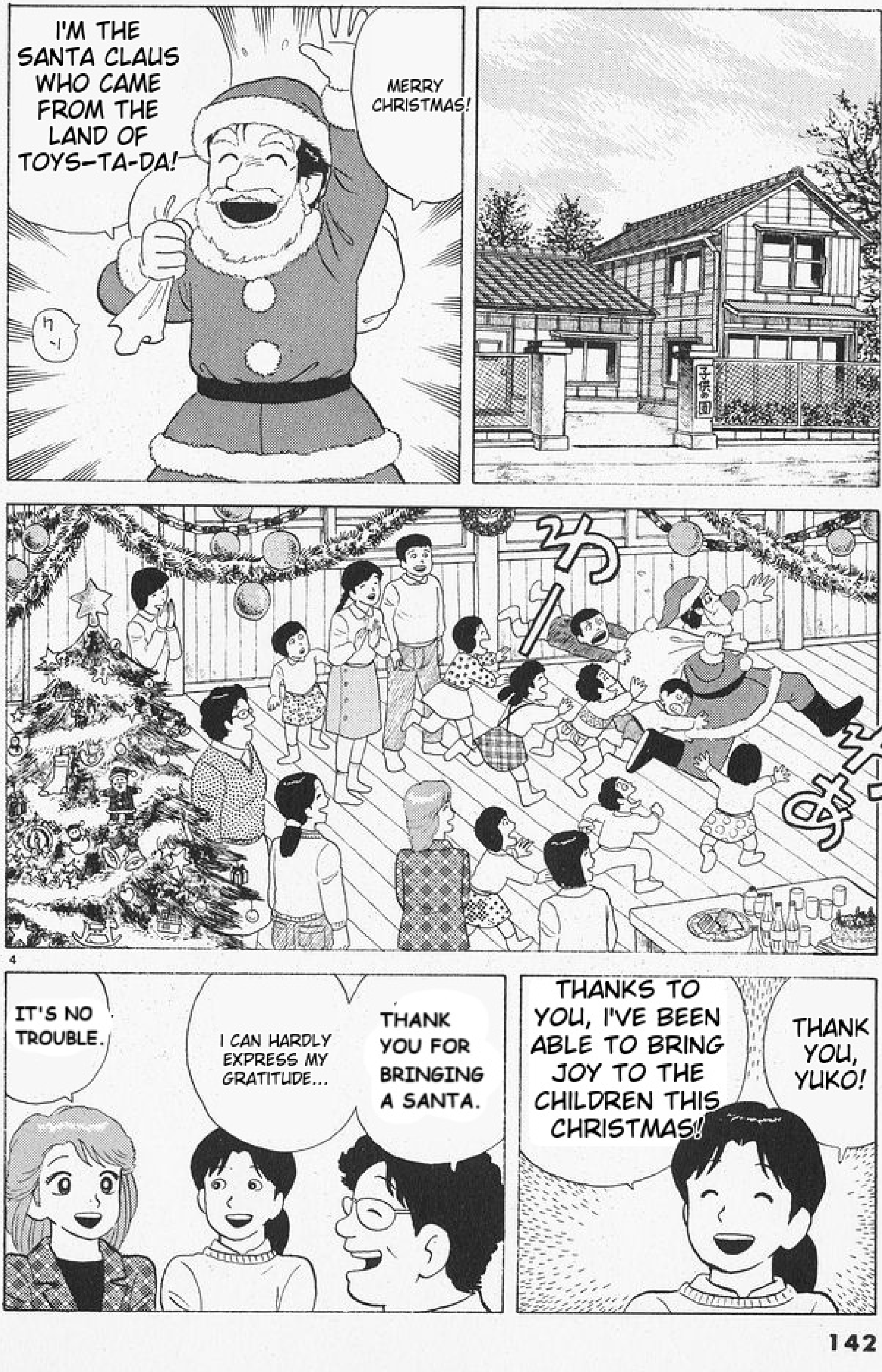



WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S THE DEBT COLLECTORS.
THERE'S SOMEONE IN OUR DEPARTMENT RACKING UP TABS AT BARS AND RESTAURANTS!
JUST WHO COULD IT BE...!?
OF COURSE! WHO ELSE WOULD BE SO IRRESPONSIBLE?!!
IT'S YAMAOKA!
......
LOOK AT HIM HIDING THERE!!!


SHH
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR BONUS, HUH?!!
WELL, I'M ABSOLUTELY FLABBERGASTED!! YOU CAN'T EVEN PAY BACK SUCH A MEASLY AMOUNT OF MONEY?!
IF I PAY THAT BACK, I'LL BE COMPLETELY, BROKE...
THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER DEBTS PILING UP, YOU KNOW...
HOW PATHETIC!
FINE, IF IT'S JUST THAT MUCH, I'LL LEND IT TO YOU!
WAIT, REALLY?!
NO WAY, KURITA! YOU CAN'T CODDLE A GUY LIKE HIM!
IT'S OKAY.
ニカ
BUT IN RETURN, HE'LL HAVE TO WORK OFF THE INTEREST!
HUH?


子供の園
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
I'M THE SANTA CLAUS WHO CAME FROM THE LAND OF TOYS-TA-DA!
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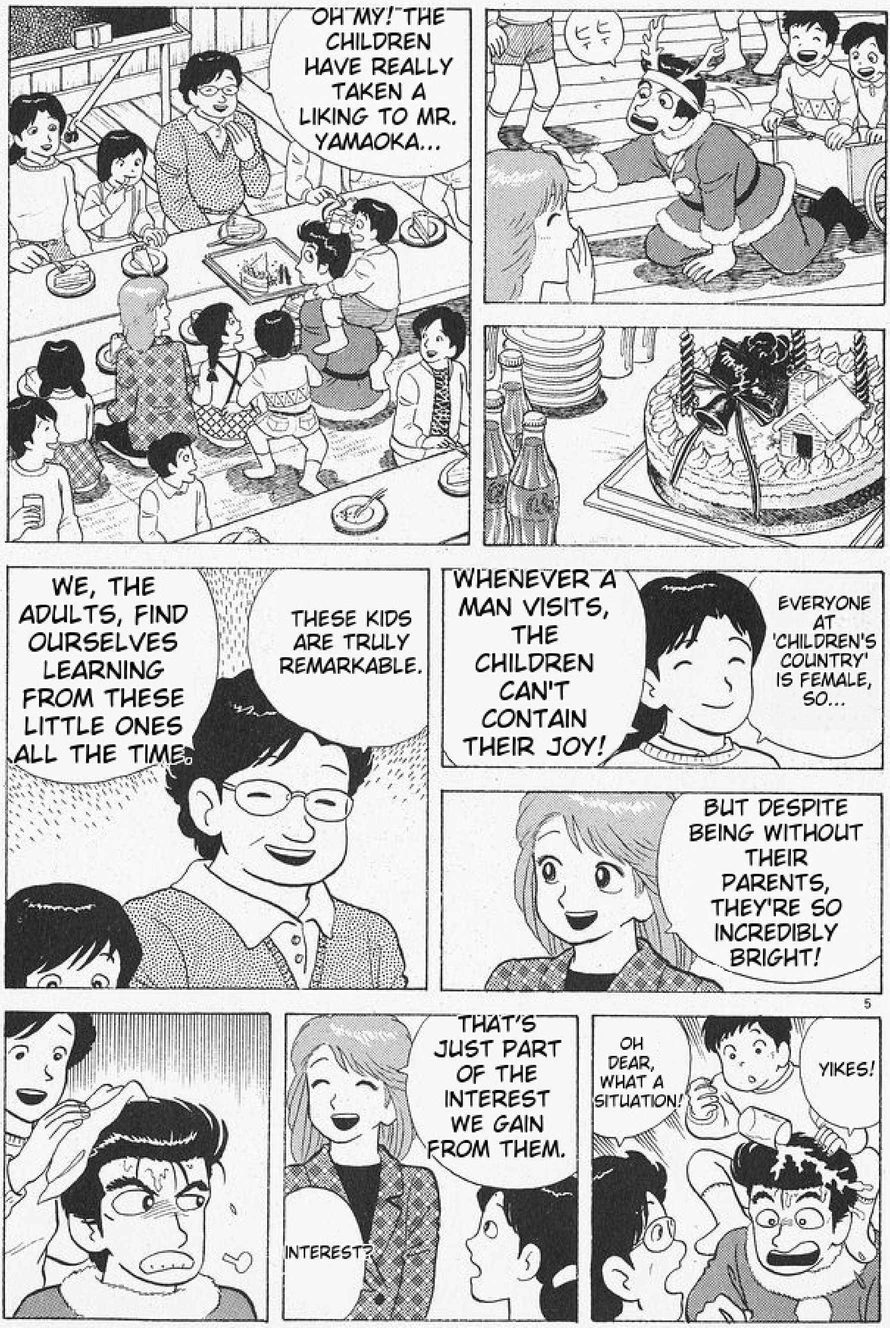
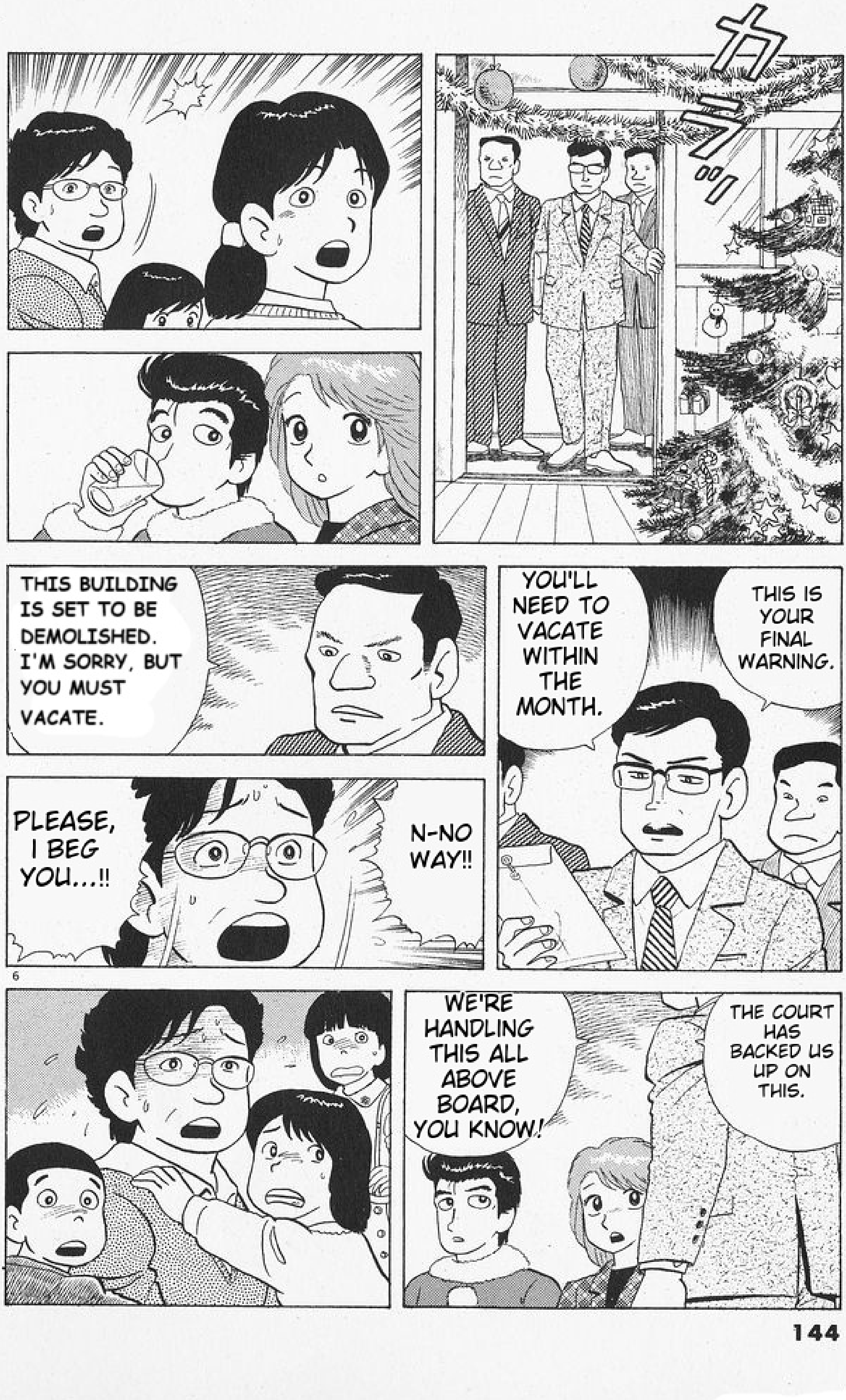
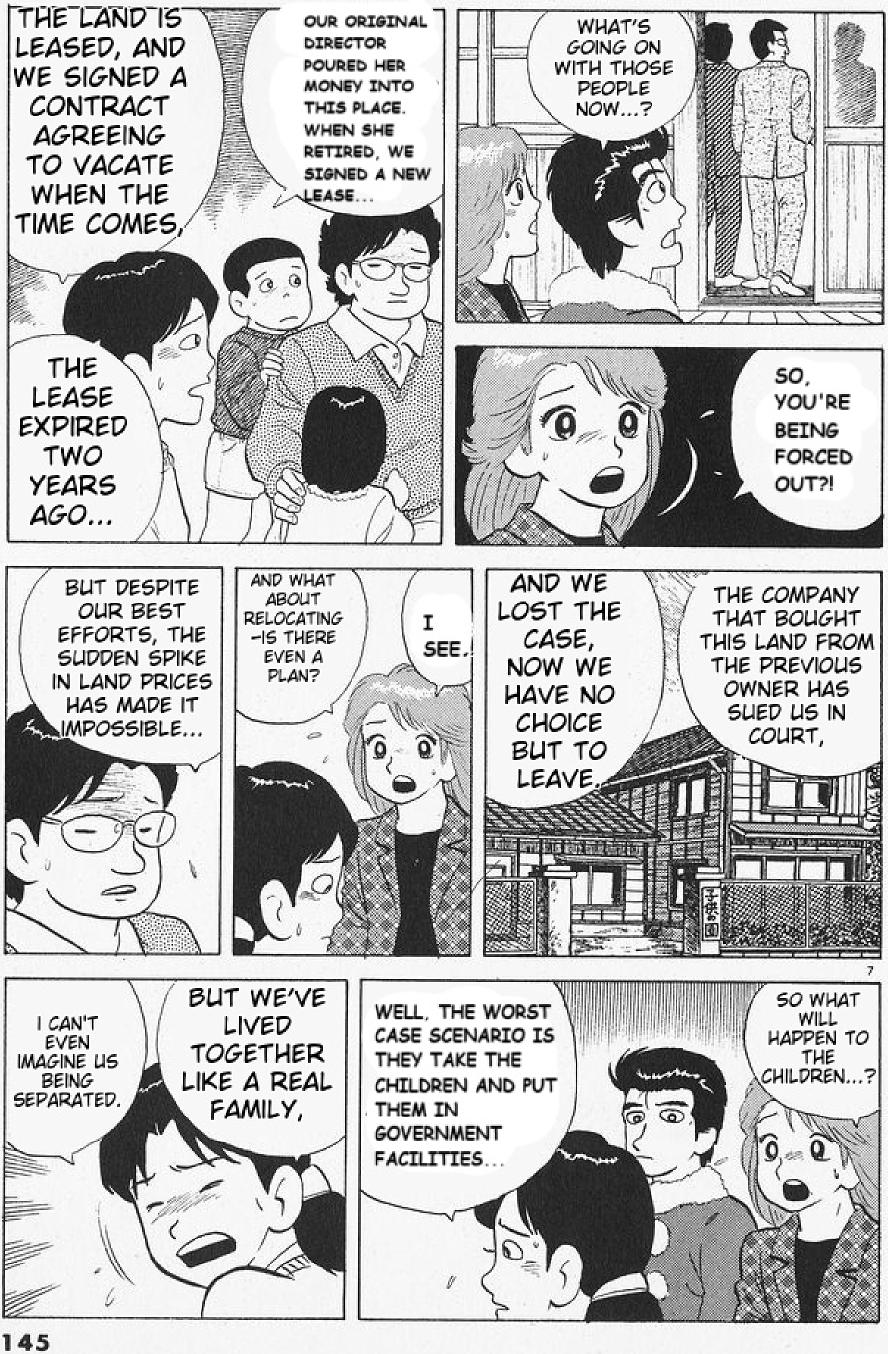
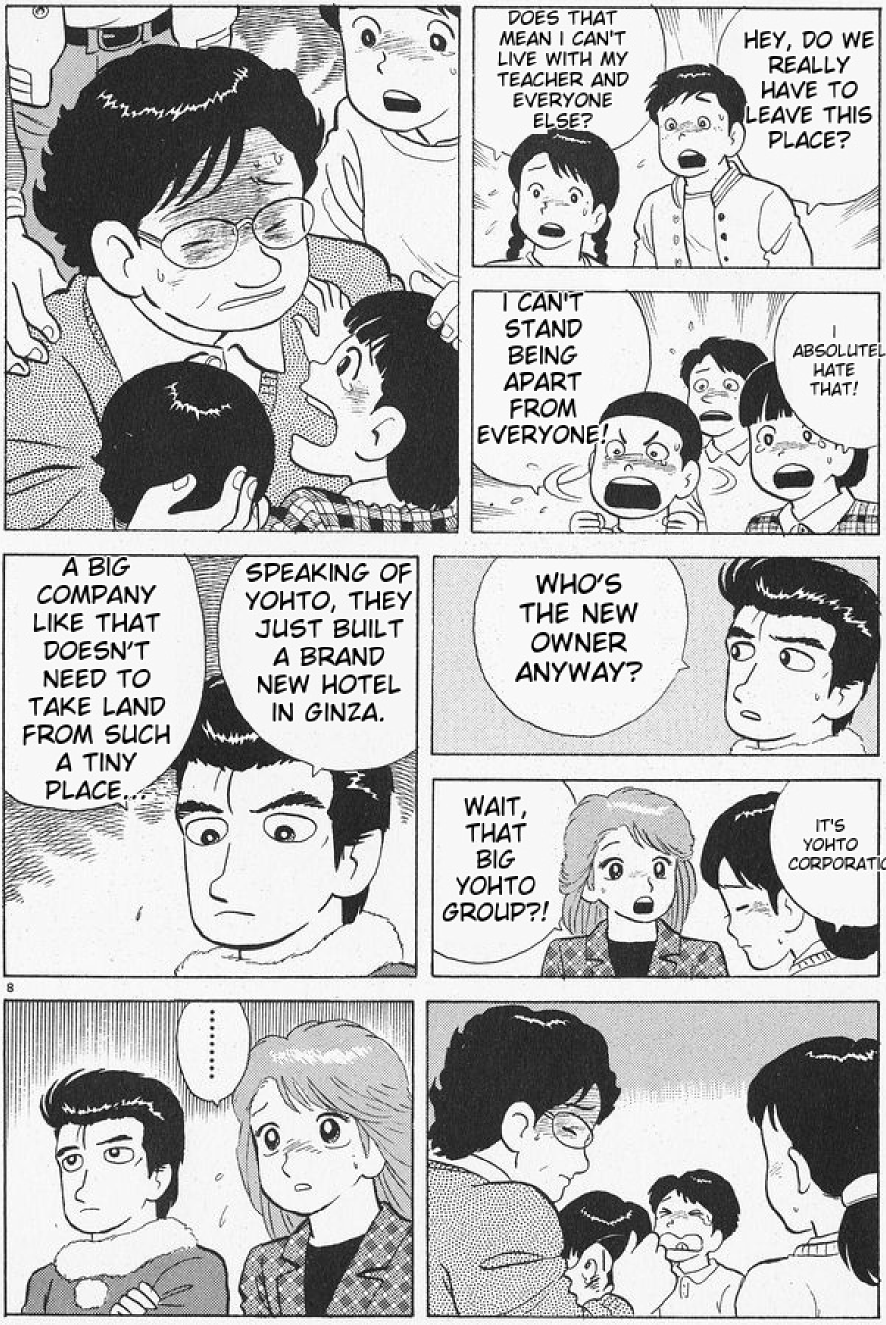
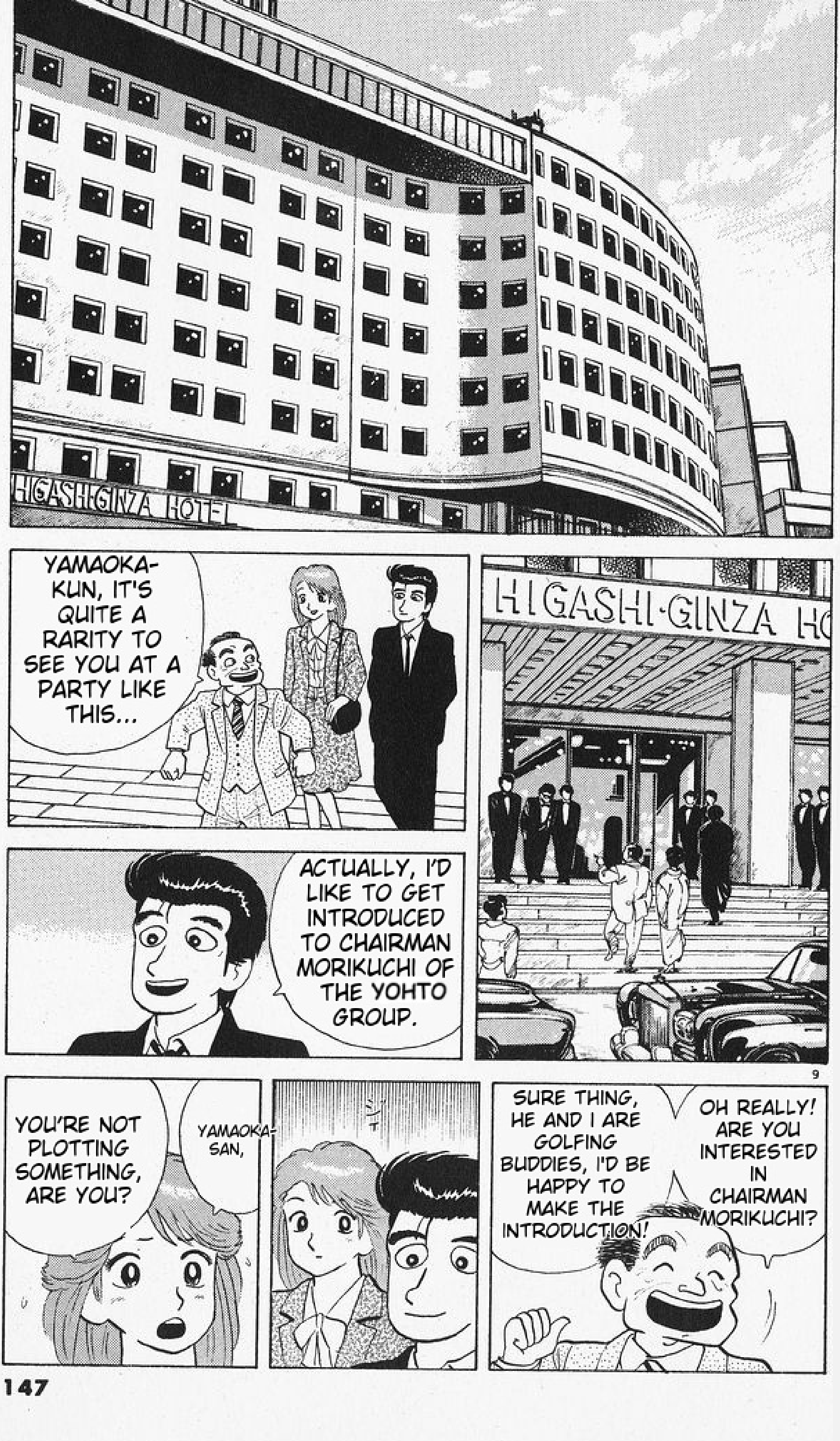
4
THANK YOU, YUKO!
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BRING JOY TO THE CHILDREN THIS CHRISTMAS!
THANK YOU FOR BRINGING A SANTA.
I CAN HARDLY EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE...
IT'S NO TROUBLE.

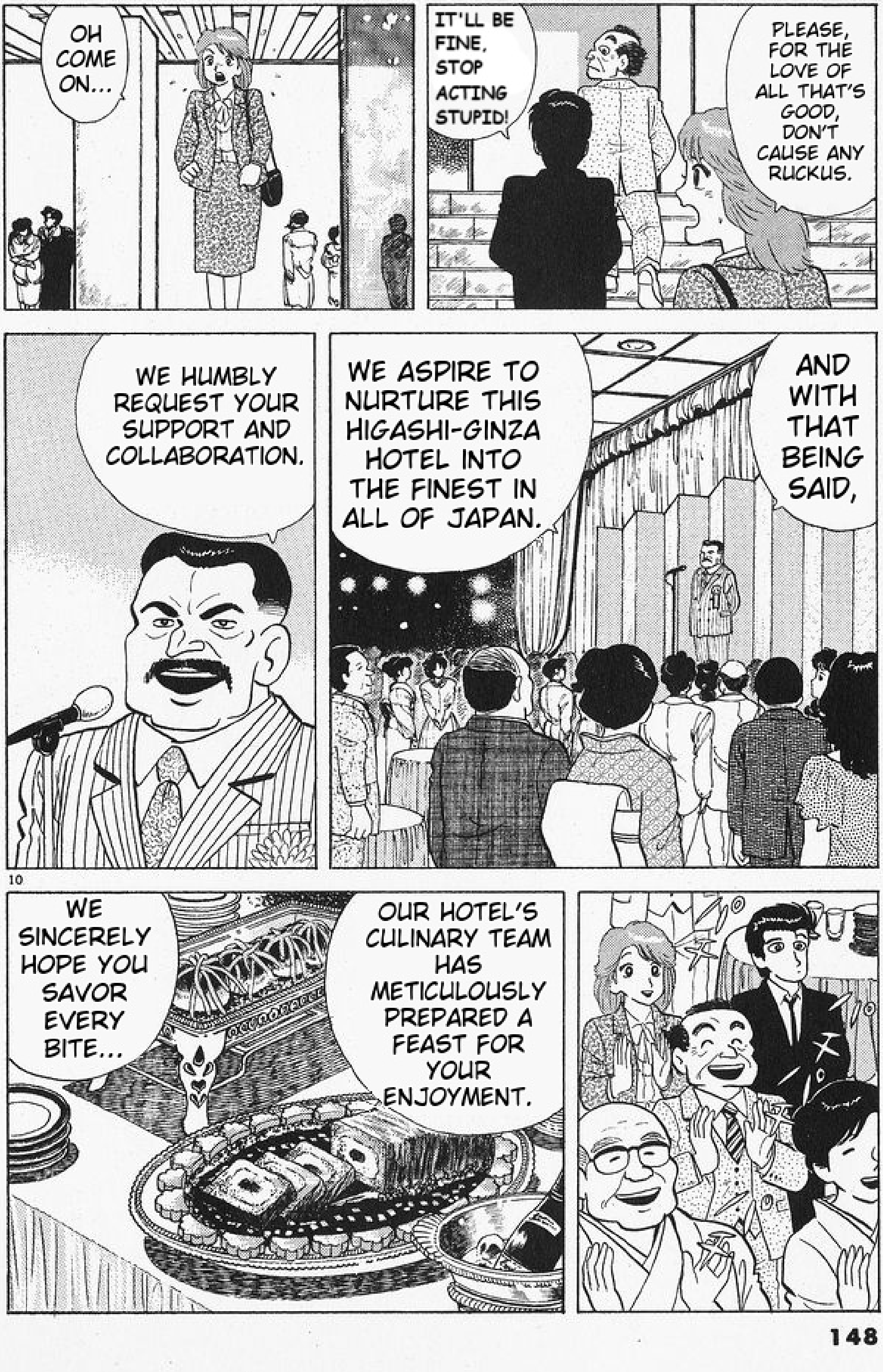

ヒィヒィ
OH MY! THE CHILDREN HAVE REALLY TAKEN A LIKING TO MR. YAMAOKA...
EVERYONE AT 'CHILDREN'S COUNTRY' IS FEMALE, SO...
WHENEVER A MAN VISITS, THE CHILDREN CAN'T CONTAIN THEIR JOY!
BUT DESPITE BEING WITHOUT THEIR PARENTS, THEY'RE SO INCREDIBLY BRIGHT!
THESE KIDS ARE TRULY REMARKABLE.
WE, THE ADULTS, FIND OURSELVES LEARNING FROM THESE LITTLE ONES ALL THE TIME.
YIKES!
OH DEAR, WHAT A SITUATION!
THAT'S JUST PART OF THE INTEREST WE GAIN FROM THEM.
INTEREST?

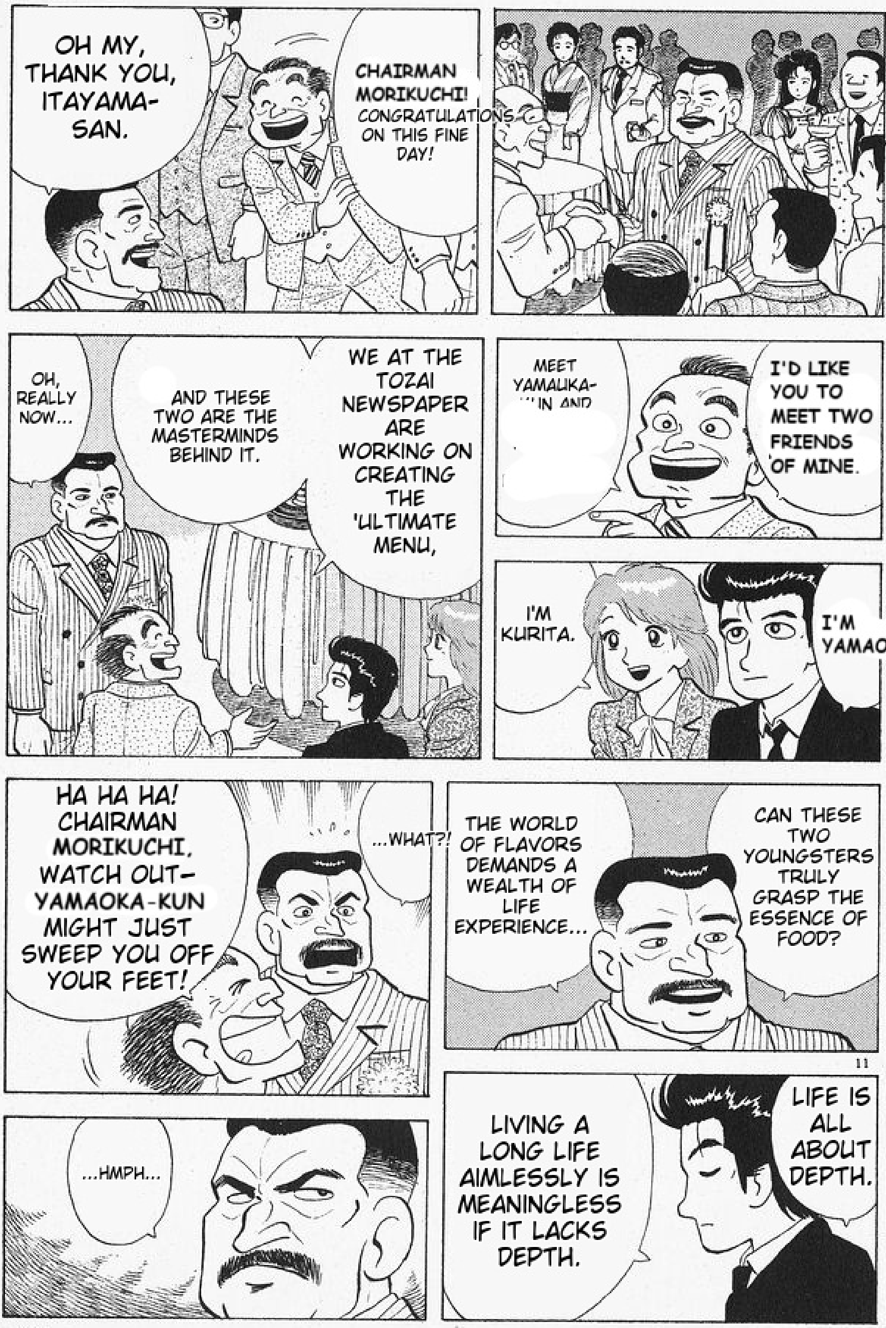

カラッ
THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING.
YOU'LL NEED TO VACATE WITHIN THE MONTH.
THIS BUILDING IS SET TO BE DEMOLISHED. I'M SORRY, BUT YOU MUST VACATE.
N-NO WAY!!
PLEASE, I BEG YOU...!!
THE COURT HAS BACKED US UP ON THIS.
WE'RE HANDLING THIS ALL ABOVE BOARD, YOU KNOW!

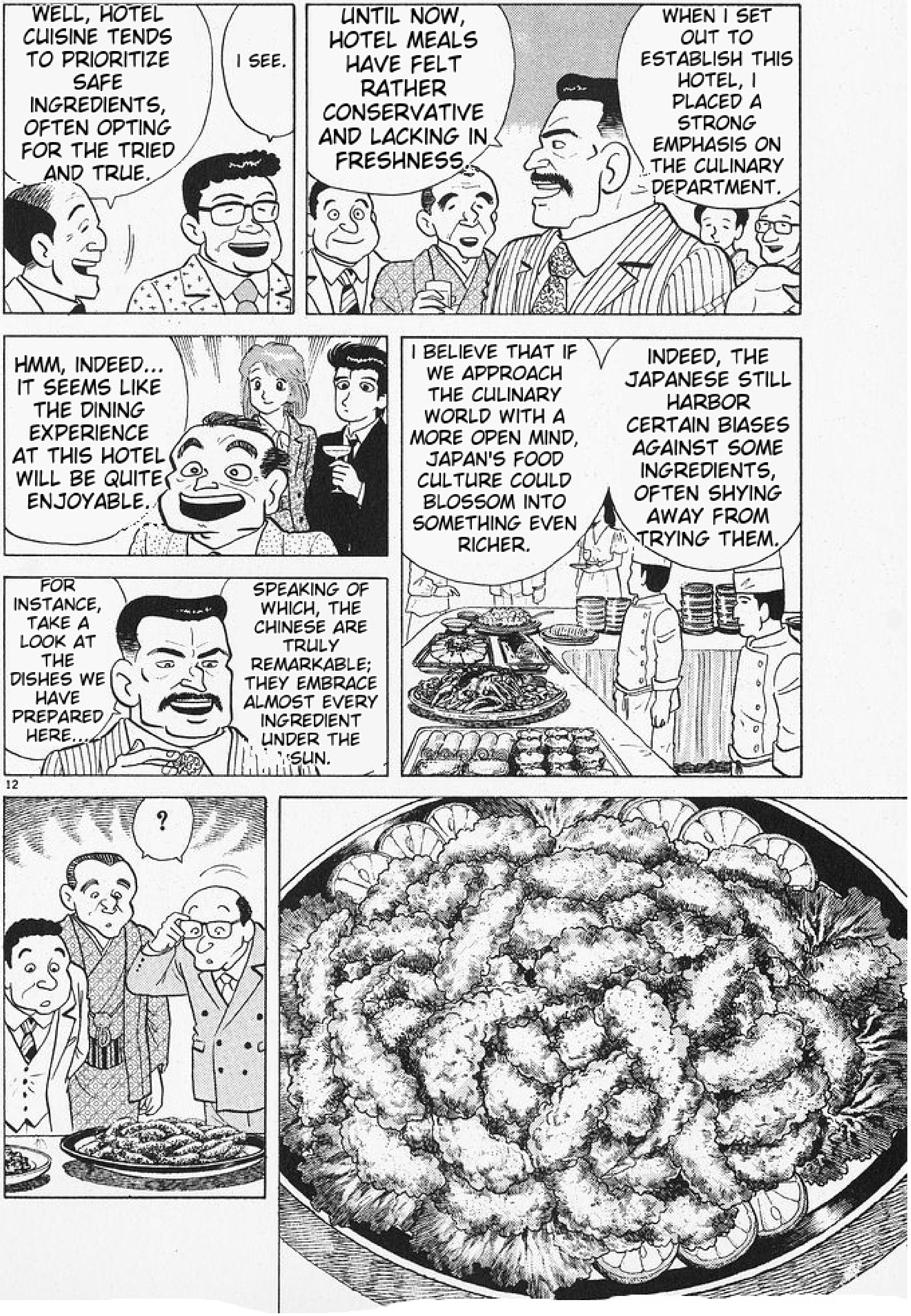

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THOSE PEOPLE NOW...?
OUR ORIGINAL DIRECTOR POURED HER MONEY INTO THIS PLACE. WHEN SHE RETIRED, WE SIGNED A NEW LEASE...
THE LAND IS LEASED, AND WE SIGNED A CONTRACT AGREEING TO VACATE WHEN THE TIME COMES,
THE LEASE EXPIRED TWO YEARS AGO...
SO, YOU'RE BEING FORCED OUT?!
THE COMPANY THAT BOUGHT THIS LAND FROM THE PREVIOUS OWNER HAS SUED US IN COURT,
AND WE LOST THE CASE, NOW WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE.
I SEE.
AND WHAT ABOUT RELOCATING -IS THERE EVEN A PLAN?
BUT DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, THE SUDDEN SPIKE IN LAND PRICES HAS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE...
SO WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE CHILDREN...?
WELL, THE WORST CASE SCENARIO IS THEY TAKE THE CHILDREN AND PUT THEM IN GOVERNMENT FACILITIES...
BUT WE'VE LIVED TOGETHER LIKE A REAL FAMILY,
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE US BEING SEPARATED.

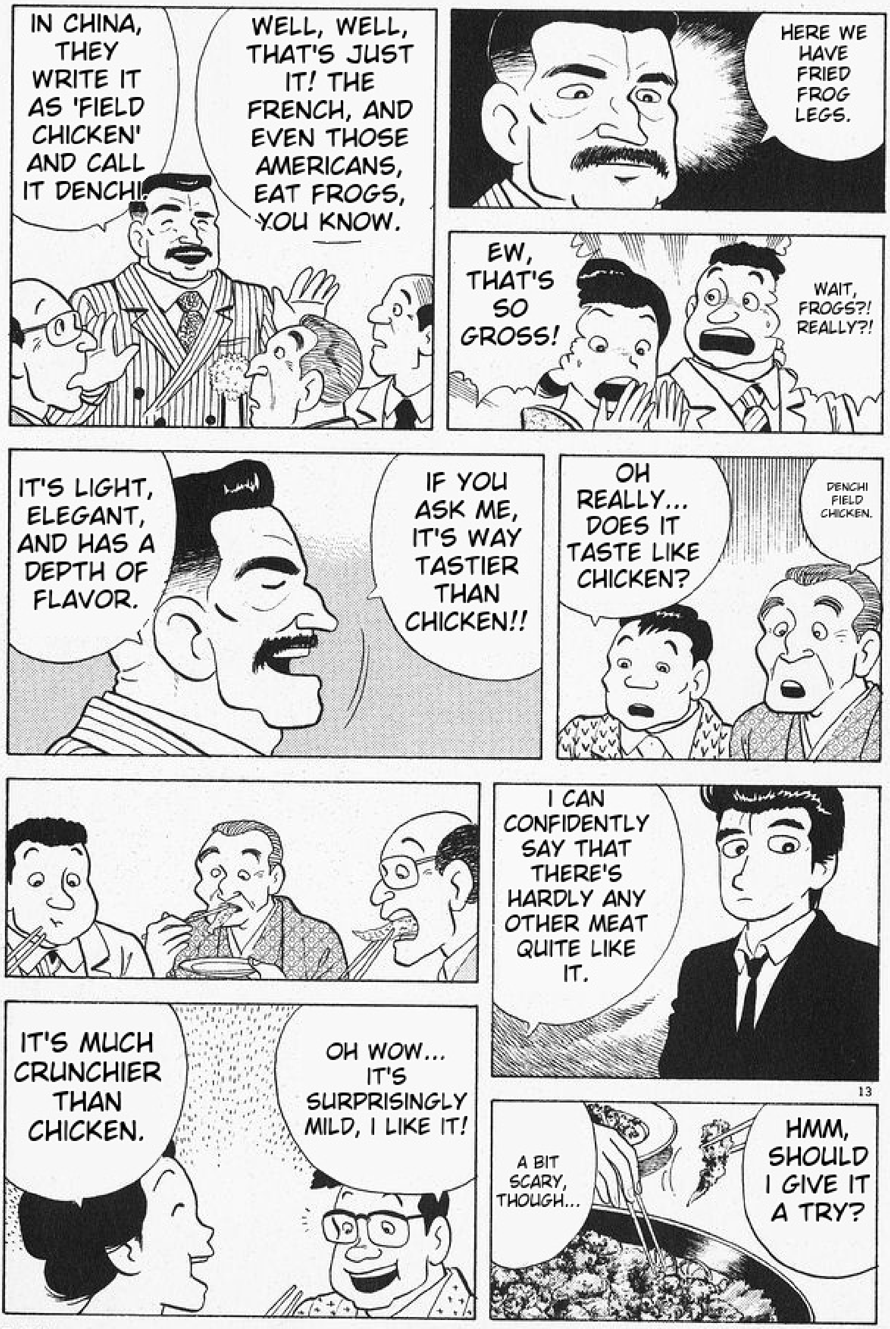

HEY, DO WE REALLY HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T LIVE WITH MY TEACHER AND EVERYONE ELSE?
I ABSOLUTELY HATE THAT!
I CAN'T STAND BEING APART FROM EVERYONE!
WHO'S THE NEW OWNER ANYWAY?
IT'S YOHTO CORPORATION.
WAIT, THAT BIG YOHTO GROUP?!
SPEAKING OF YOHTO, THEY JUST BUILT A BRAND NEW HOTEL IN GINZA.
A BIG COMPANY LIKE THAT DOESN'T NEED TO TAKE LAND FROM SUCH A TINY PLACE...
......

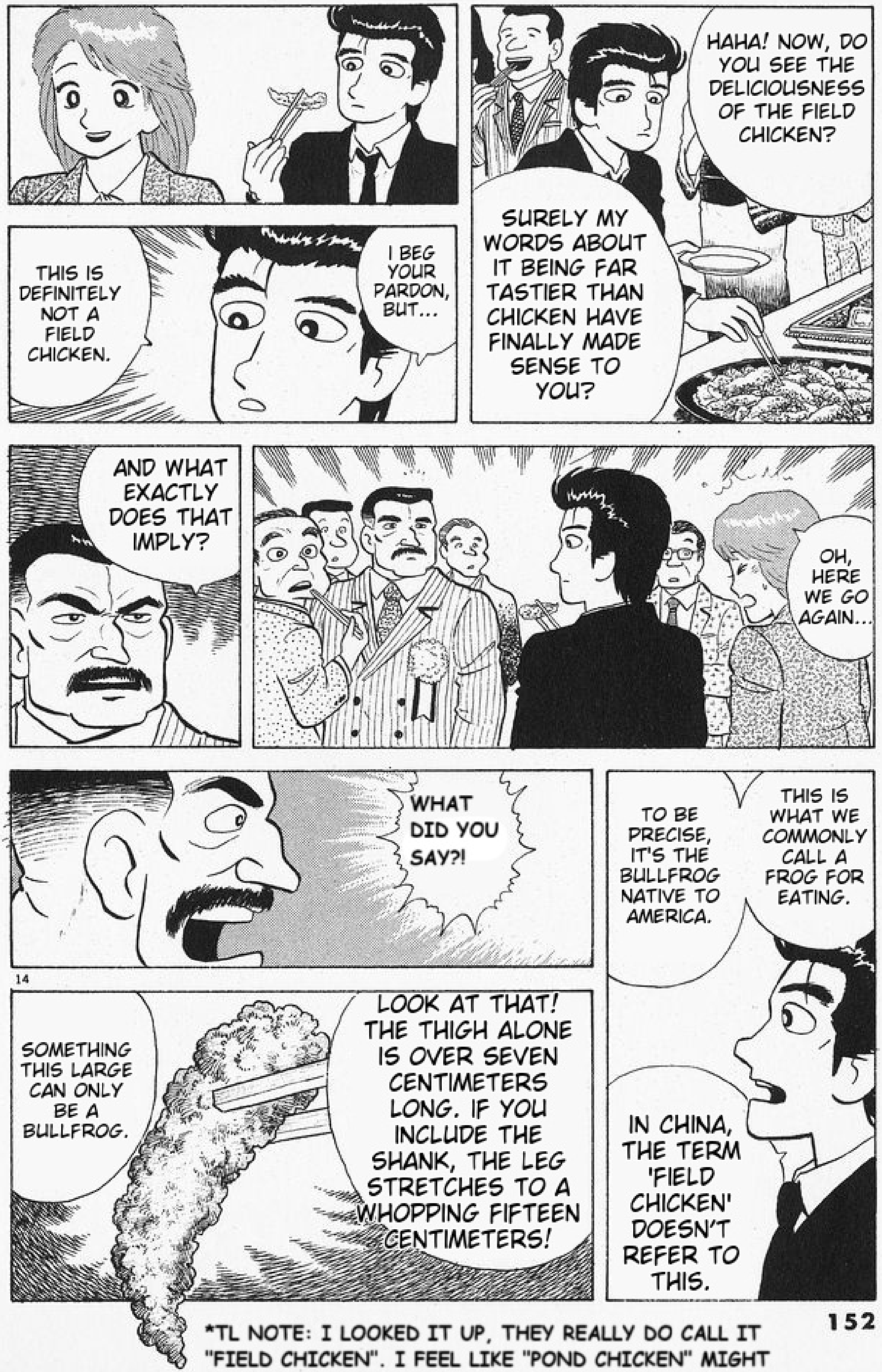

HIGASHI-GINZA HOTEL
HIGASHI-GINZA HO
YAMAOKA-KUN, IT'S QUITE A RARITY TO SEE YOU AT A PARTY LIKE THIS...
ACTUALLY, I'D LIKE TO GET INTRODUCED TO CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI OF THE YOHTO GROUP.
OH REALLY! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI?
SURE THING, HE AND I ARE GOLFING BUDDIES, I'D BE HAPPY TO MAKE THE INTRODUCTION!
YAMAOKA-SAN,
YOU'RE NOT PLOTTING SOMETHING, ARE YOU?


PLEASE, FOR THE LOVE OF ALL THAT'S GOOD, DON'T CAUSE ANY RUCKUS.
IT'LL BE FINE, STOP ACTING STUPID!
OH COME ON...
AND WITH THAT BEING SAID,
WE ASPIRE TO NURTURE THIS HIGASHI-GINZA HOTEL INTO THE FINEST IN ALL OF JAPAN.
WE HUMBLY REQUEST YOUR SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION.
OUR HOTEL'S CULINARY TEAM HAS METICULOUSLY PREPARED A FEAST FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT.
WE SINCERELY HOPE YOU SAVOR EVERY BITE...

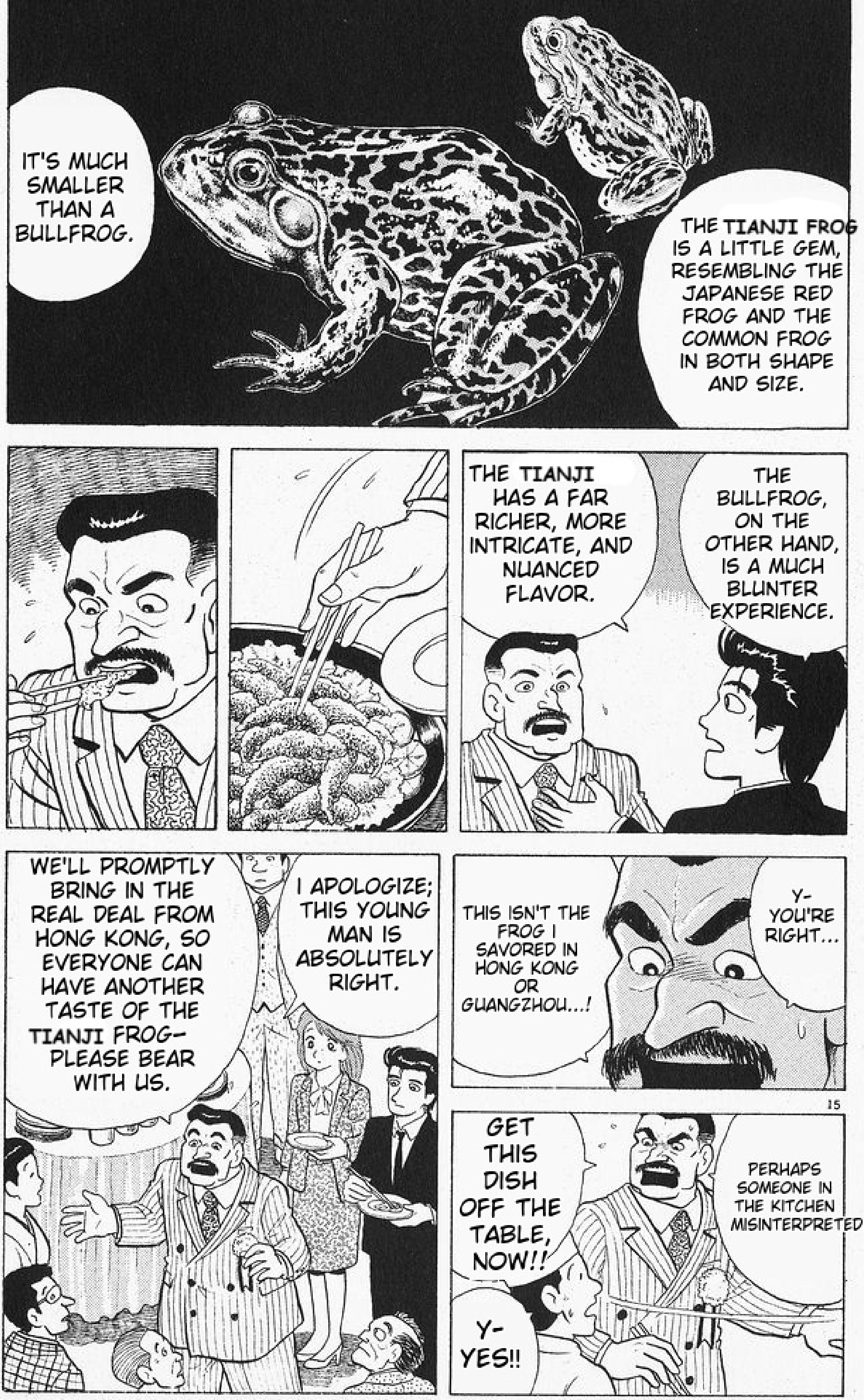

CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI! CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS FINE DAY!
OH MY, THANK YOU, ITAYAMA-SAN.
I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET TWO FRIENDS OF MINE.
MEET YAMAUKA- ...IN AND
I'M YAMAOKA.
I'M KURITA.
WE AT THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER ARE WORKING ON CREATING THE 'ULTIMATE MENU,
AND THESE TWO ARE THE MASTERMINDS BEHIND IT.
OH, REALLY NOW...
CAN THESE TWO YOUNGSTERS TRULY GRASP THE ESSENCE OF FOOD?
THE WORLD OF FLAVORS DEMANDS A WEALTH OF LIFE EXPERIENCE...
...WHAT?!
HA HA HA! CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI, WATCH OUT- YAMAOKA-KUN MIGHT JUST SWEEP YOU OFF YOUR FEET!
LIFE IS ALL ABOUT DEPTH.
LIVING A LONG LIFE AIMLESSLY IS MEANINGLESS IF IT LACKS DEPTH.
...HMPH...

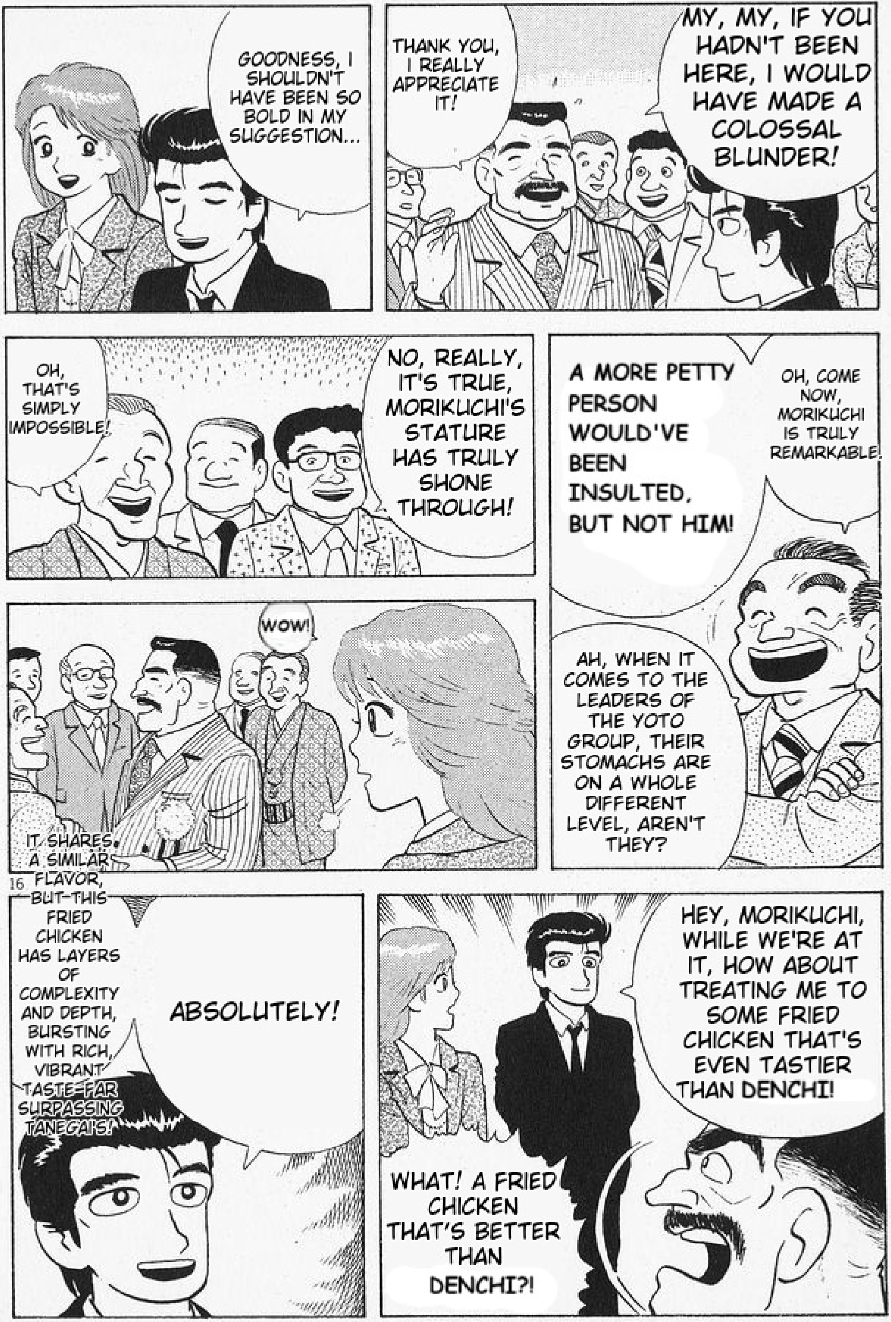

WHEN I SET OUT TO ESTABLISH THIS HOTEL, I PLACED A STRONG EMPHASIS ON THE CULINARY DEPARTMENT.
UNTIL NOW, HOTEL MEALS HAVE FELT RATHER CONSERVATIVE AND LACKING IN FRESHNESS.
I SEE.
WELL, HOTEL CUISINE TENDS TO PRIORITIZE SAFE INGREDIENTS, OFTEN OPTING FOR THE TRIED AND TRUE.
INDEED, THE JAPANESE STILL HARBOR CERTAIN BIASES AGAINST SOME INGREDIENTS, OFTEN SHYING AWAY FROM TRYING THEM.
I BELIEVE THAT IF WE APPROACH THE CULINARY WORLD WITH A MORE OPEN MIND, JAPAN'S FOOD CULTURE COULD BLOSSOM INTO SOMETHING EVEN RICHER.
HMM, INDEED... IT SEEMS LIKE THE DINING EXPERIENCE AT THIS HOTEL WILL BE QUITE ENJOYABLE.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, THE CHINESE ARE TRULY REMARKABLE; THEY EMBRACE ALMOST EVERY INGREDIENT UNDER THE SUN.
FOR INSTANCE, TAKE A LOOK AT THE DISHES WE HAVE PREPARED HERE...
?


HERE WE HAVE FRIED FROG LEGS.
WAIT, FROGS?! REALLY?!
EW, THAT'S SO GROSS!
IN CHINA, THEY WRITE IT AS 'FIELD CHICKEN' AND CALL IT DENCHI!
WELL, WELL, THAT'S JUST IT! THE FRENCH, AND EVEN THOSE AMERICANS, EAT FROGS, YOU KNOW.
DENCHI FIELD CHICKEN.
OH REALLY... DOES IT TASTE LIKE CHICKEN?
IF YOU ASK ME, IT'S WAY TASTIER THAN CHICKEN!!
IT'S LIGHT, ELEGANT, AND HAS A DEPTH OF FLAVOR.
I CAN CONFIDENTLY SAY THAT THERE'S HARDLY ANY OTHER MEAT QUITE LIKE IT.
13
HMM, SHOULD I GIVE IT A TRY?
A BIT SCARY, THOUGH...
OH WOW... IT'S SURPRISINGLY MILD, I LIKE IT!
IT'S MUCH CRUNCHIER THAN CHICKEN.

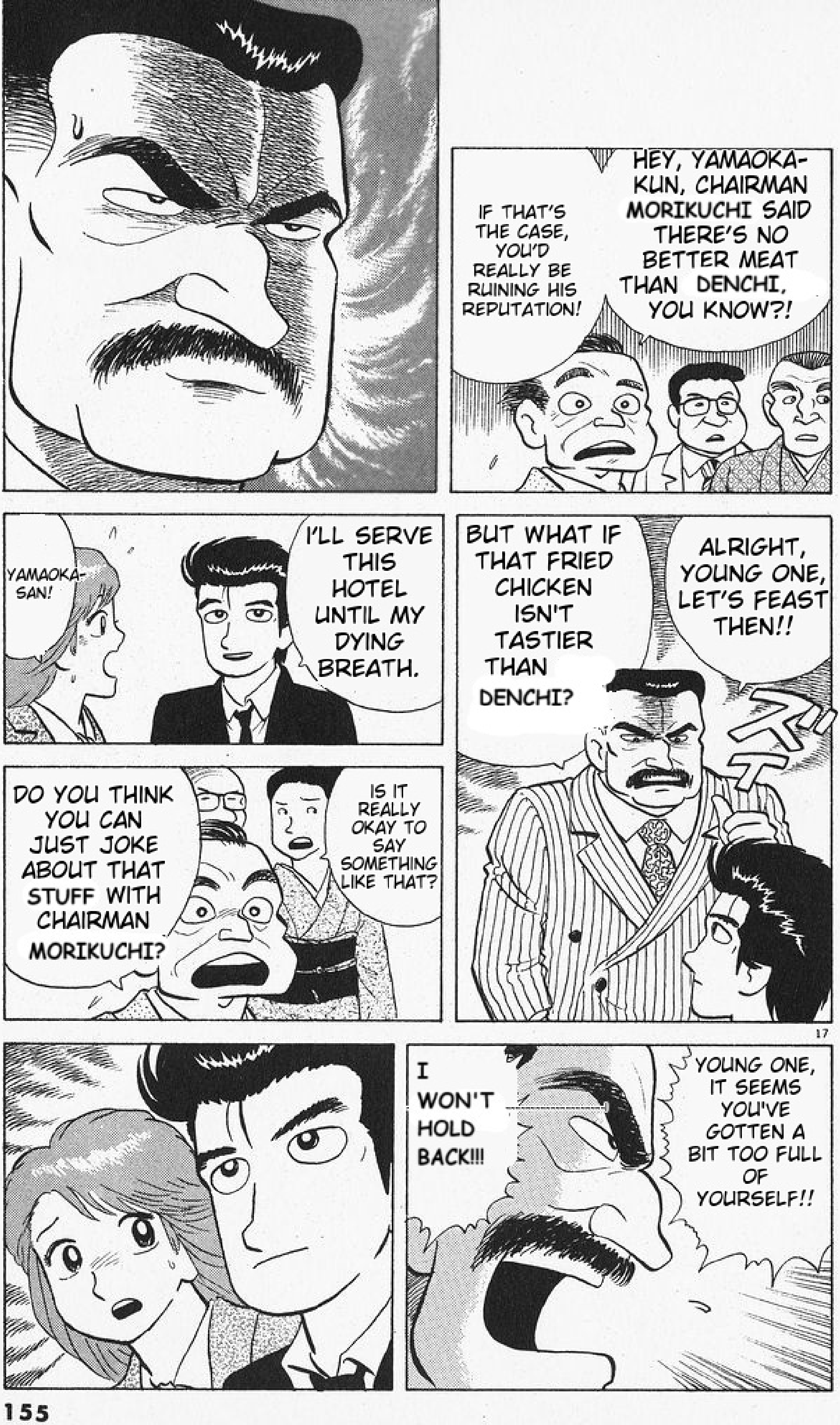

HAHA! NOW, DO YOU SEE THE DELICIOUSNESS OF THE FIELD CHICKEN?
SURELY MY WORDS ABOUT IT BEING FAR TASTIER THAN CHICKEN HAVE FINALLY MADE SENSE TO YOU?
I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT...
THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT A FIELD CHICKEN.
OH, HERE WE GO AGAIN...
AND WHAT EXACTLY DOES THAT IMPLY?
THIS IS WHAT WE COMMONLY CALL A FROG FOR EATING.
TO BE PRECISE, IT'S THE BULLFROG NATIVE TO AMERICA.
IN CHINA, THE TERM 'FIELD CHICKEN' DOESN'T REFER TO THIS.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
LOOK AT THAT! THE THIGH ALONE IS OVER SEVEN CENTIMETERS LONG. IF YOU INCLUDE THE SHANK, THE LEG STRETCHES TO A WHOPPING FIFTEEN CENTIMETERS!
SOMETHING THIS LARGE CAN ONLY BE A BULLFROG.

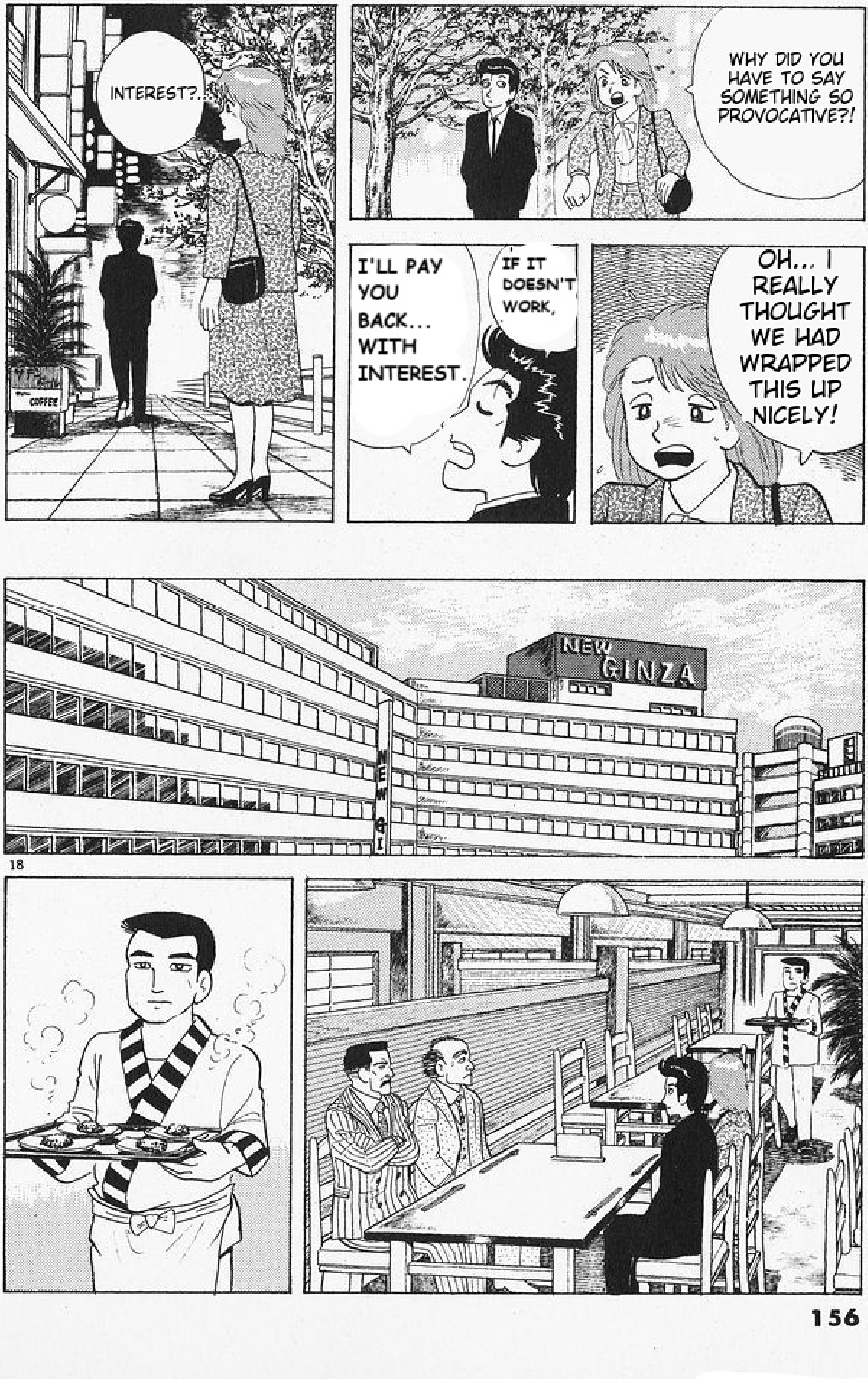
*TL NOTE: I LOOKED IT UP, THEY REALLY DO CALL IT "FIELD CHICKEN". I FEEL LIKE "POND CHICKEN" MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE, BUT WHO AM I TO SAY?

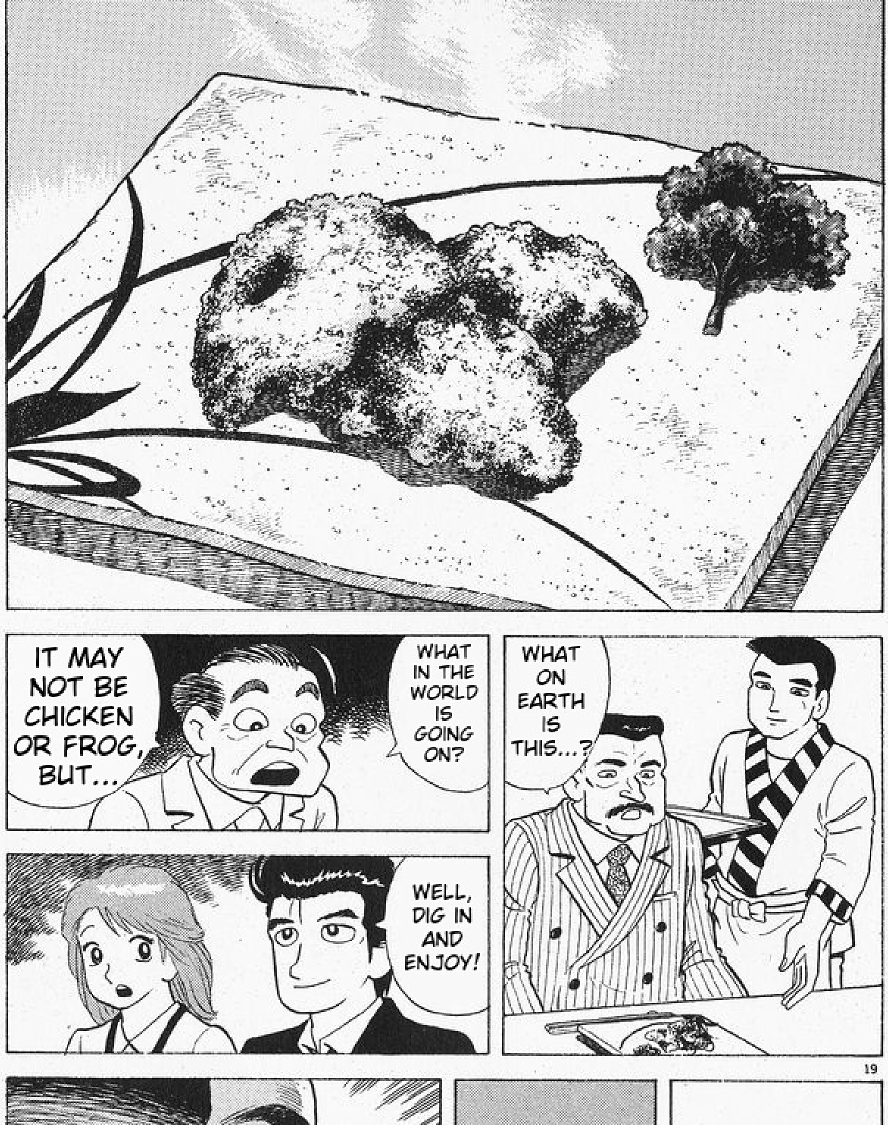

THE TIANJI FROG IS A LITTLE GEM, RESEMBLING THE JAPANESE RED FROG AND THE COMMON FROG IN BOTH SHAPE AND SIZE.
IT'S MUCH SMALLER THAN A BULLFROG.
THE TIANJI HAS A FAR RICHER, MORE INTRICATE, AND NUANCED FLAVOR.
THE BULLFROG, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS A MUCH BLUNTER EXPERIENCE.
THIS ISN'T THE FROG I SAVORED IN HONG KONG OR GUANGZHOU...!
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT...
PERHAPS SOMEONE IN THE KITCHEN MISINTERPRETED...
GET THIS DISH OFF THE TABLE, NOW!!
Y-YES!!
I APOLOGIZE; THIS YOUNG MAN IS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
WE'LL PROMPTLY BRING IN THE REAL DEAL FROM HONG KONG, SO EVERYONE CAN HAVE ANOTHER TASTE OF THE TIANJI FROG—PLEASE BEAR WITH US.

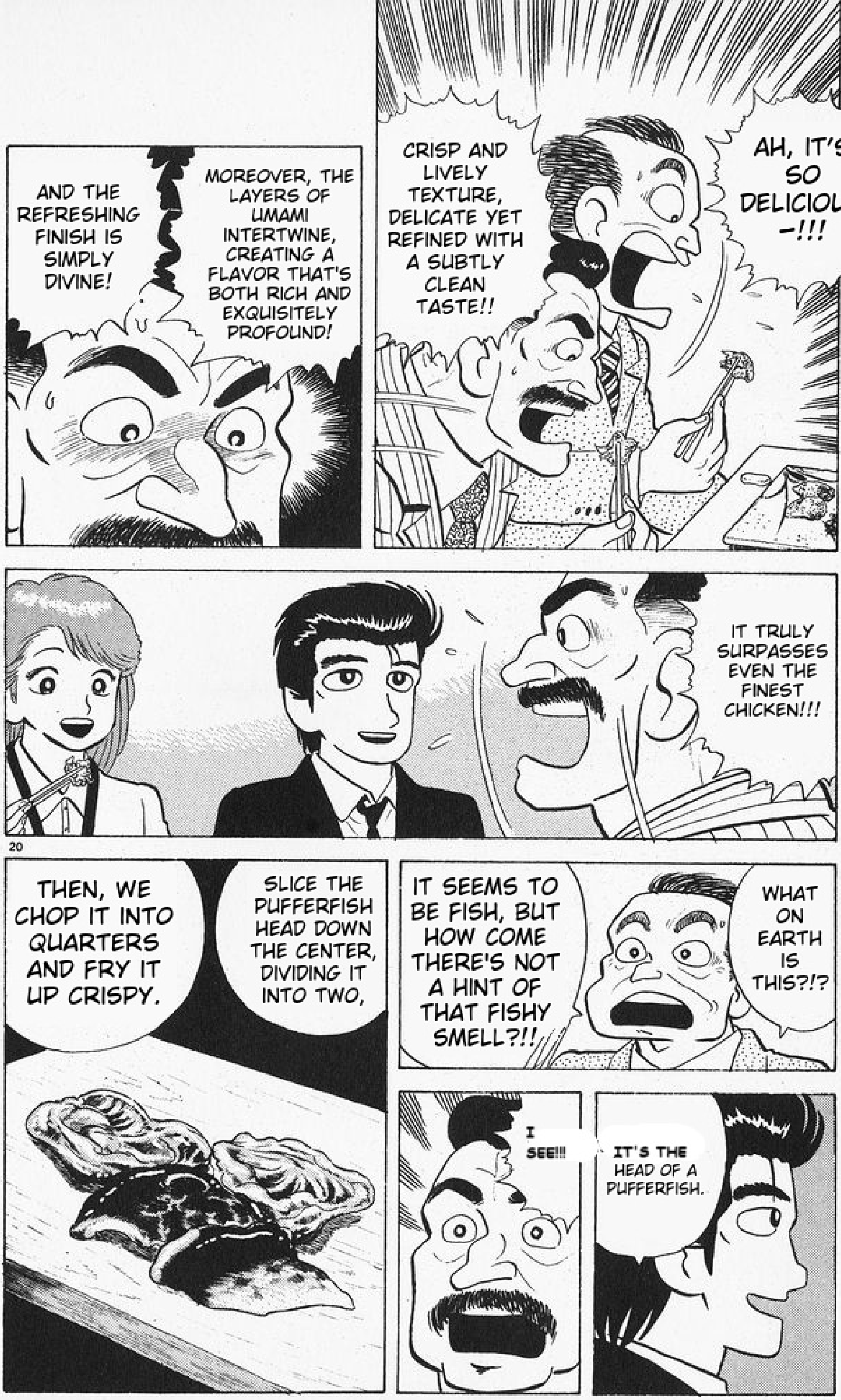

MY, MY, IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE, I WOULD HAVE MADE A COLOSSAL BLUNDER!
THANK YOU, I REALLY APPRECIATE IT!
GOODNESS, I SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN SO BOLD IN MY SUGGESTION...
OH, COME NOW, MORIKUCHI IS TRULY REMARKABLE!
A MORE PETTY PERSON WOULD'VE BEEN INSULTED, BUT NOT HIM!
AH, WHEN IT COMES TO THE LEADERS OF THE YOTO GROUP, THEIR STOMACHS ARE ON A WHOLE DIFFERENT LEVEL, AREN'T THEY?
NO, REALLY, IT'S TRUE, MORIKUCHI'S STATURE HAS TRULY SHONE THROUGH!
OH, THAT'S SIMPLY IMPOSSIBLE!
WOW!
HEY, MORIKUCHI, WHILE WE'RE AT IT, HOW ABOUT TREATING ME TO SOME FRIED CHICKEN THAT'S EVEN TASTIER THAN DENCHI!
WHAT! A FRIED CHICKEN THAT'S BETTER THAN DENCHI?!
ABSOLUTELY!
IT SHARES A SIMILAR FLAVOR, BUT THIS FRIED CHICKEN HAS LAYERS OF COMPLEXITY AND DEPTH, BURSTING WITH RICH, VIBRANT TASTE FAR SURPASSING TANEGAI'S!
16

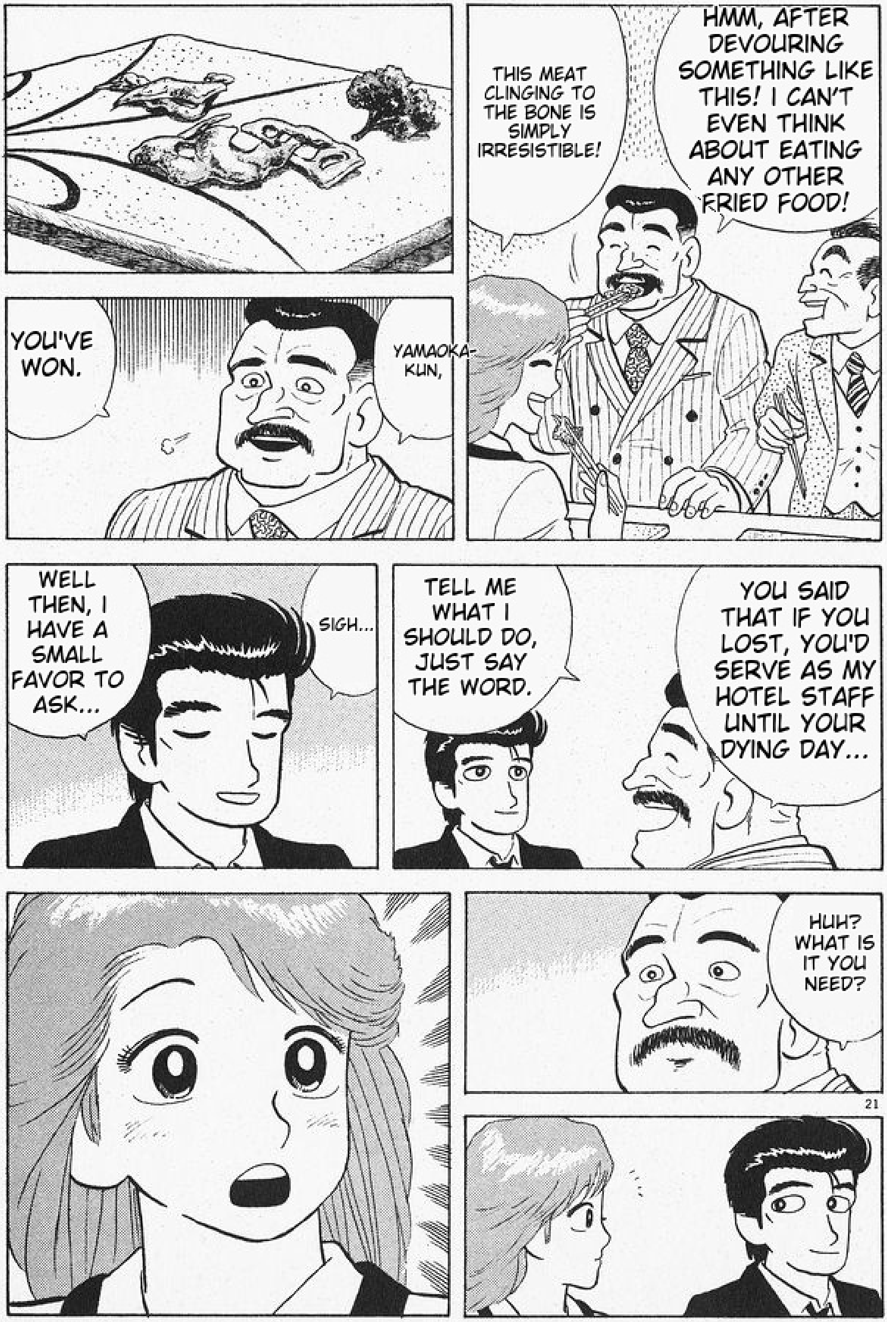
*TL NOTE: I WOULD FIX THIS PANEL IF I COULD. IT WOULD DESTROY THE ART IN IT AND THE PANEL ABOVE, THOUGH. SO, MY APOLOGIES FOR NOT DOING SO.

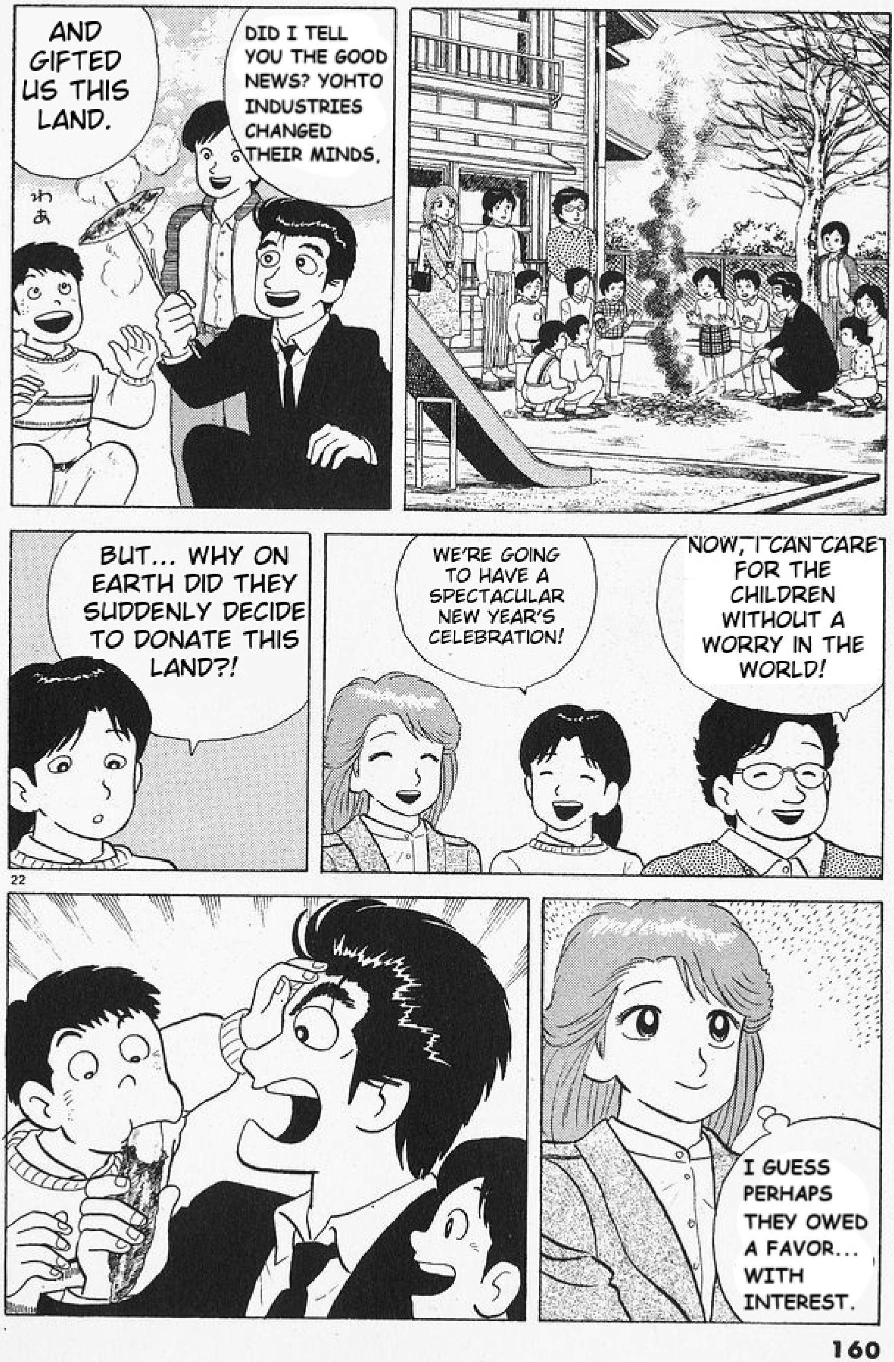

HEY, YAMAOKA-KUN, CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI SAID THERE'S NO BETTER MEAT THAN DENCHI, YOU KNOW?!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU'D REALLY BE RUINING HIS REPUTATION!
ALRIGHT, YOUNG ONE, LET'S FEAST THEN!!
BUT WHAT IF THAT FRIED CHICKEN ISN'T TASTIER THAN DENCHI?
ズイ
I'LL SERVE THIS HOTEL UNTIL MY DYING BREATH.
YAMAOKA-SAN!
IS IT REALLY OKAY TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN JUST JOKE ABOUT THAT STUFF WITH CHAIRMAN MORIKUCHI?
YOUNG ONE, IT SEEMS YOU'VE GOTTEN A BIT TOO FULL OF YOURSELF!!
I WON'T HOLD BACK!!!


WHY DID YOU HAVE TO SAY SOMETHING SO PROVOCATIVE?!
OH... I REALLY THOUGHT WE HAD WRAPPED THIS UP NICELY!
IF IT DOESN'T WORK,
I'LL PAY YOU BACK... WITH INTEREST.
INTEREST?..
COFFEE
NEW GINZA
NEW GI


WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS...?
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?
IT MAY NOT BE CHICKEN OR FROG, BUT...
WELL, DIG IN AND ENJOY!
19

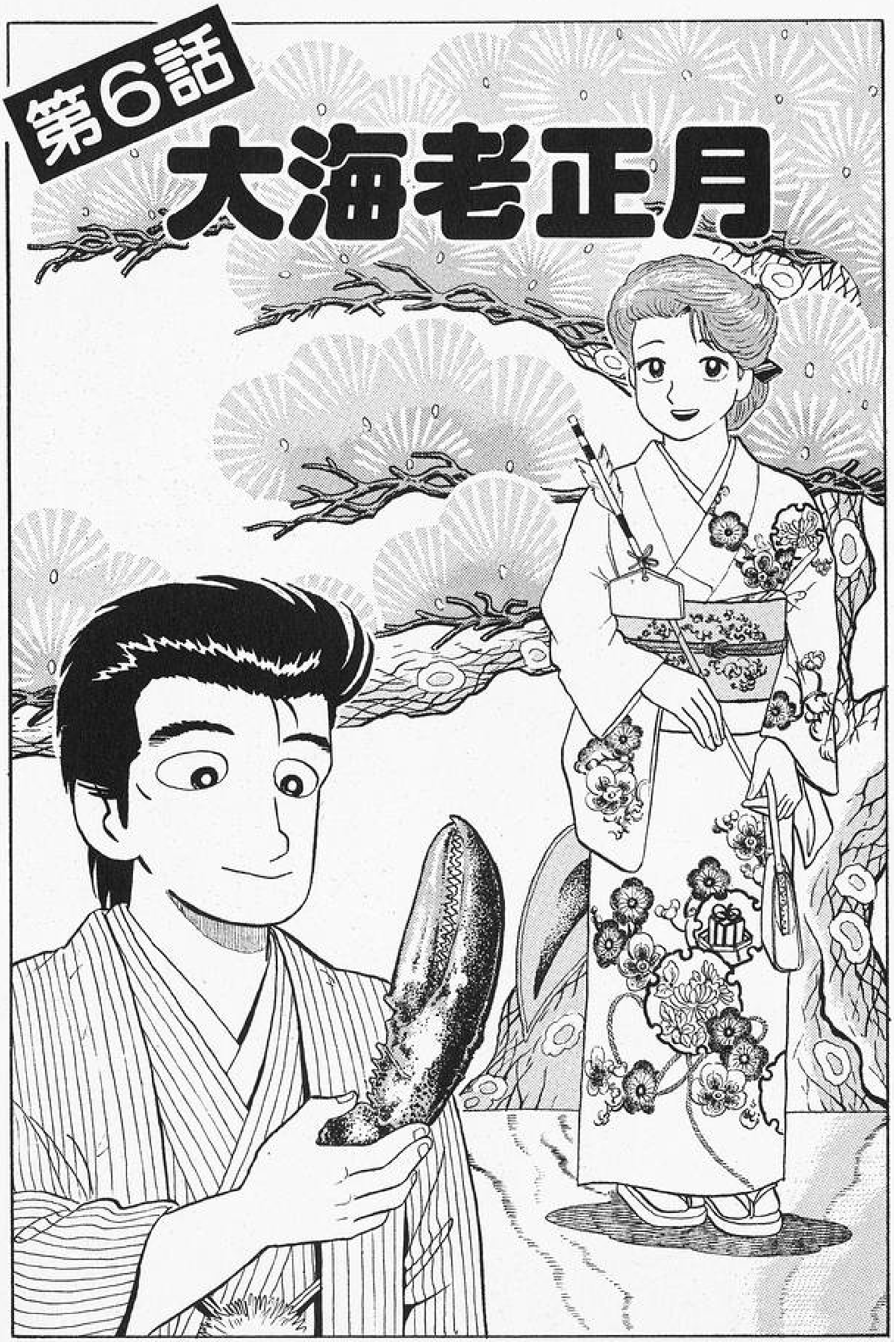

AH, IT'S SO DELICIOUS-!!!
CRISP AND LIVELY TEXTURE, DELICATE YET REFINED WITH A SUBTLY CLEAN TASTE!!
MOREOVER, THE LAYERS OF UMAMI INTERTWINE, CREATING A FLAVOR THAT'S BOTH RICH AND EXQUISITELY PROFOUND!
AND THE REFRESHING FINISH IS SIMPLY DIVINE!
IT TRULY SURPASSES EVEN THE FINEST CHICKEN!!!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?!?
IT SEEMS TO BE FISH, BUT HOW COME THERE'S NOT A HINT OF THAT FISHY SMELL?!!
SLICE THE PUFFERFISH HEAD DOWN THE CENTER, DIVIDING IT INTO TWO,
THEN, WE CHOP IT INTO QUARTERS AND FRY IT UP CRISPY.
IT'S THE HEAD OF A PUFFERFISH.
I SEE!!

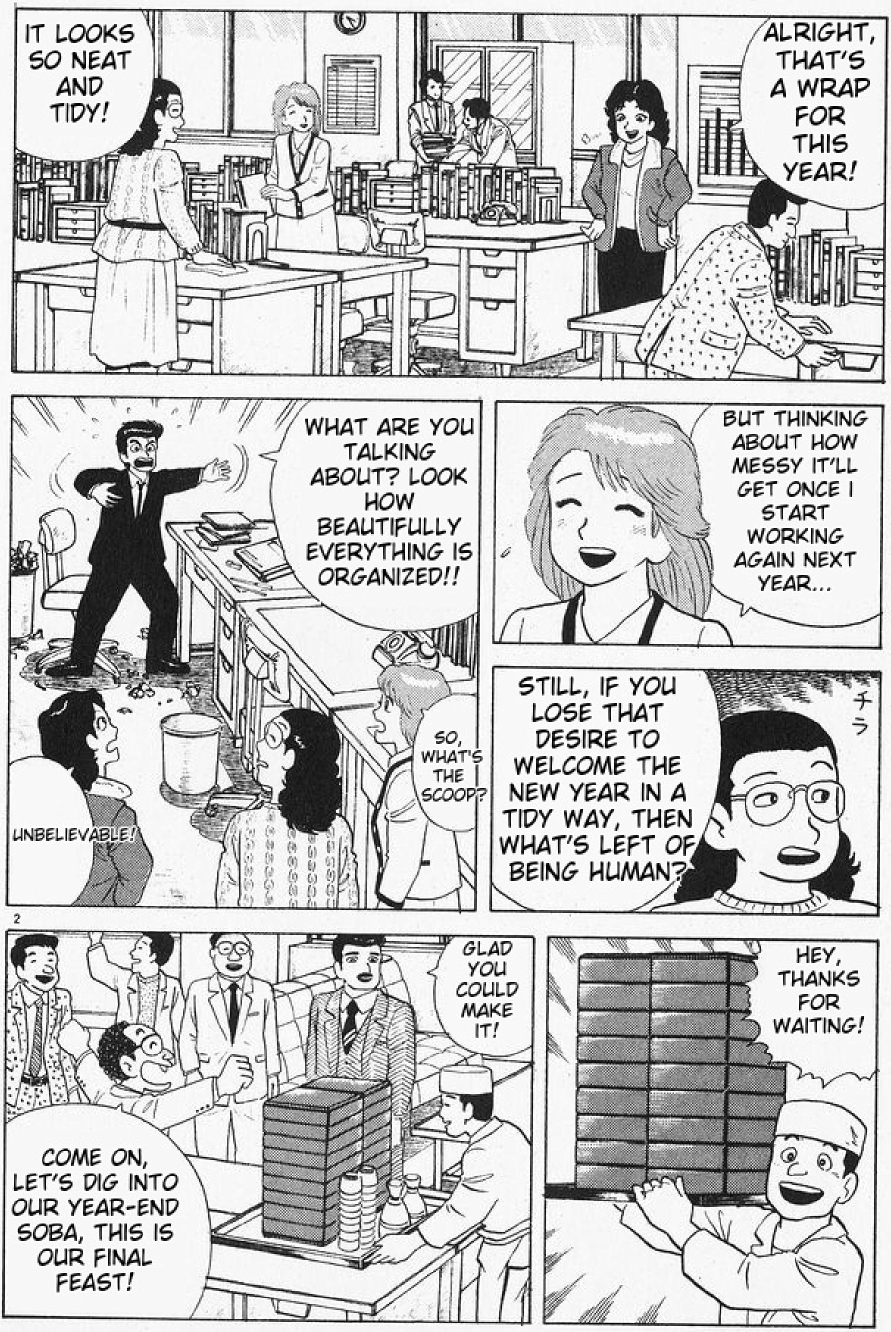

HMM, AFTER DEVOURING SOMETHING LIKE THIS! I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT EATING ANY OTHER FRIED FOOD!
THIS MEAT CLINGING TO THE BONE IS SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE!
YAMAOKA-KUN,
YOU'VE WON.
YOU SAID THAT IF YOU LOST, YOU'D SERVE AS MY HOTEL STAFF UNTIL YOUR DYING DAY...
TELL ME WHAT I SHOULD DO, JUST SAY THE WORD.
SIGH...
WELL THEN, I HAVE A SMALL FAVOR TO ASK...
HUH? WHAT IS IT YOU NEED?

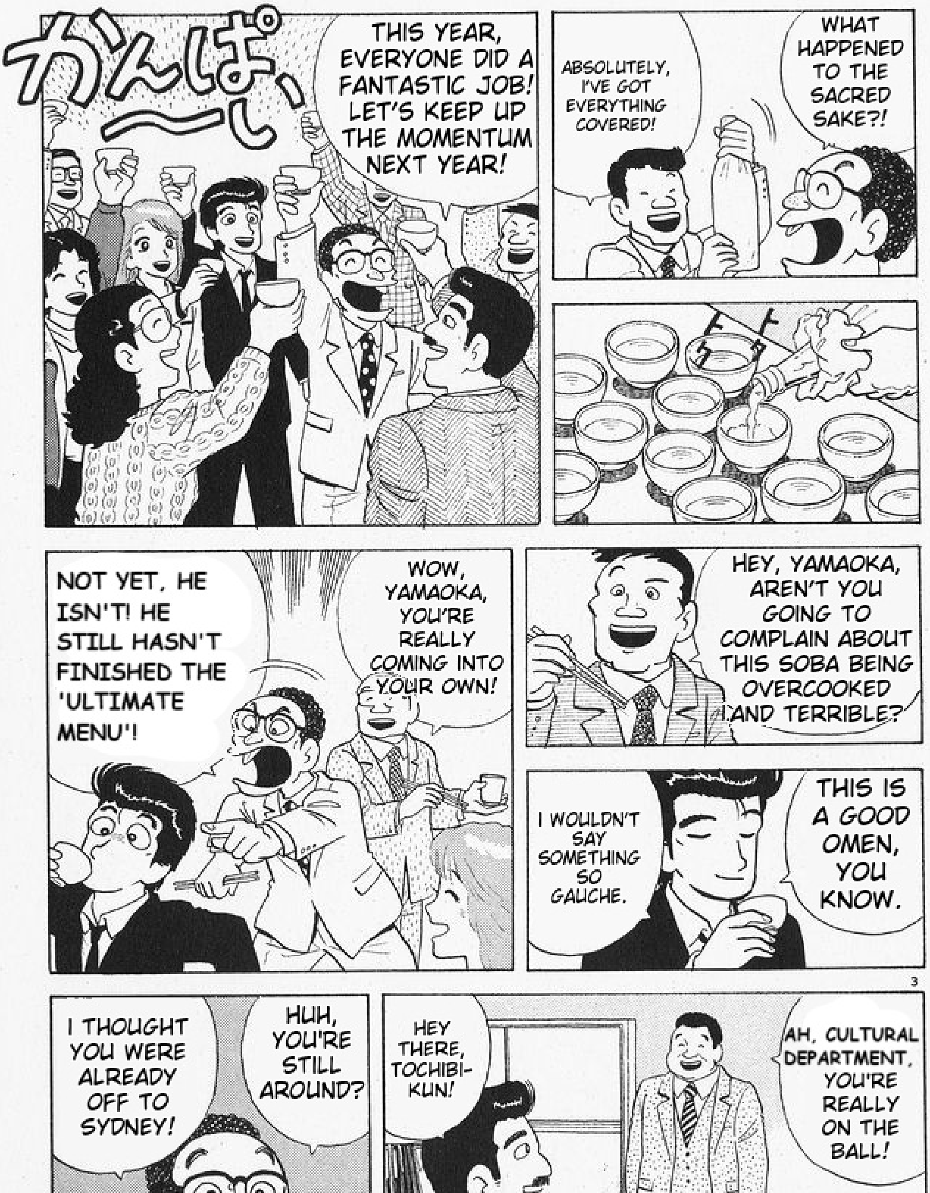

DID I TELL YOU THE GOOD NEWS? YOHTO INDUSTRIES CHANGED THEIR MINDS.
AND GIFTED US THIS LAND.
わあ
NOW, I CAN CARE FOR THE CHILDREN WITHOUT A WORRY IN THE WORLD!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A SPECTACULAR NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION!
BUT... WHY ON EARTH DID THEY SUDDENLY DECIDE TO DONATE THIS LAND?!
I GUESS PERHAPS THEY OWED A FAVOR... WITH INTEREST.

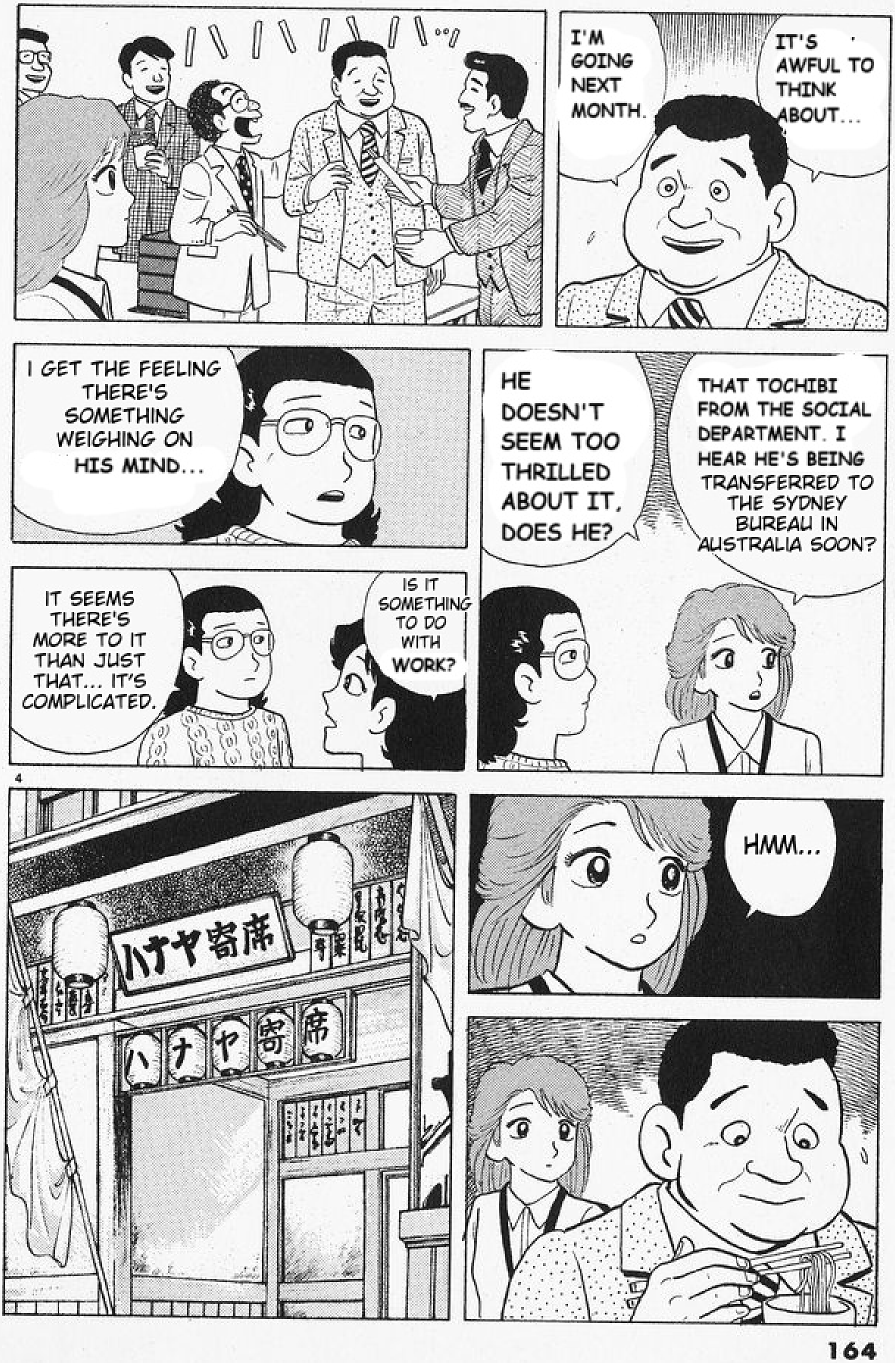
第6話

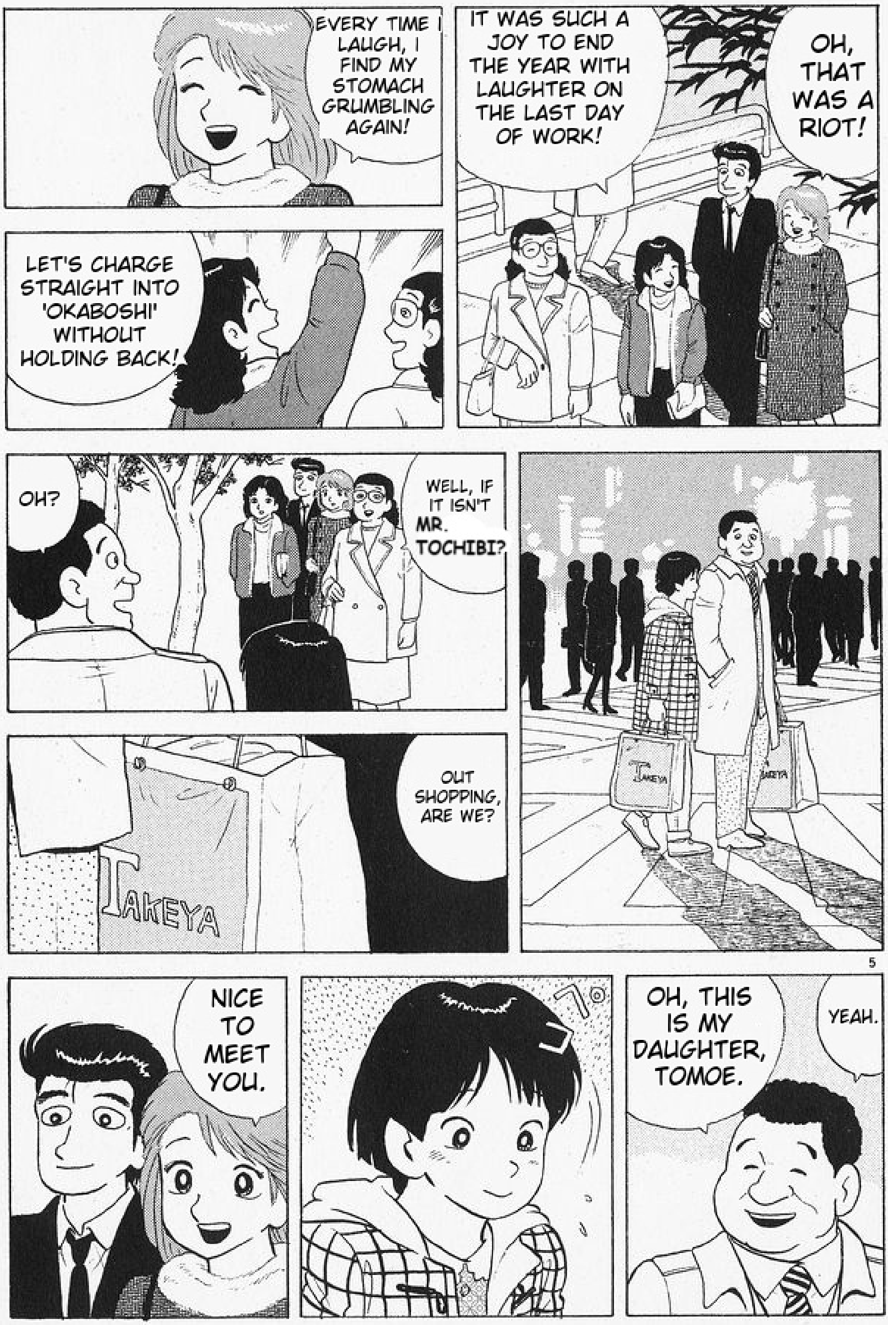
大海老正月

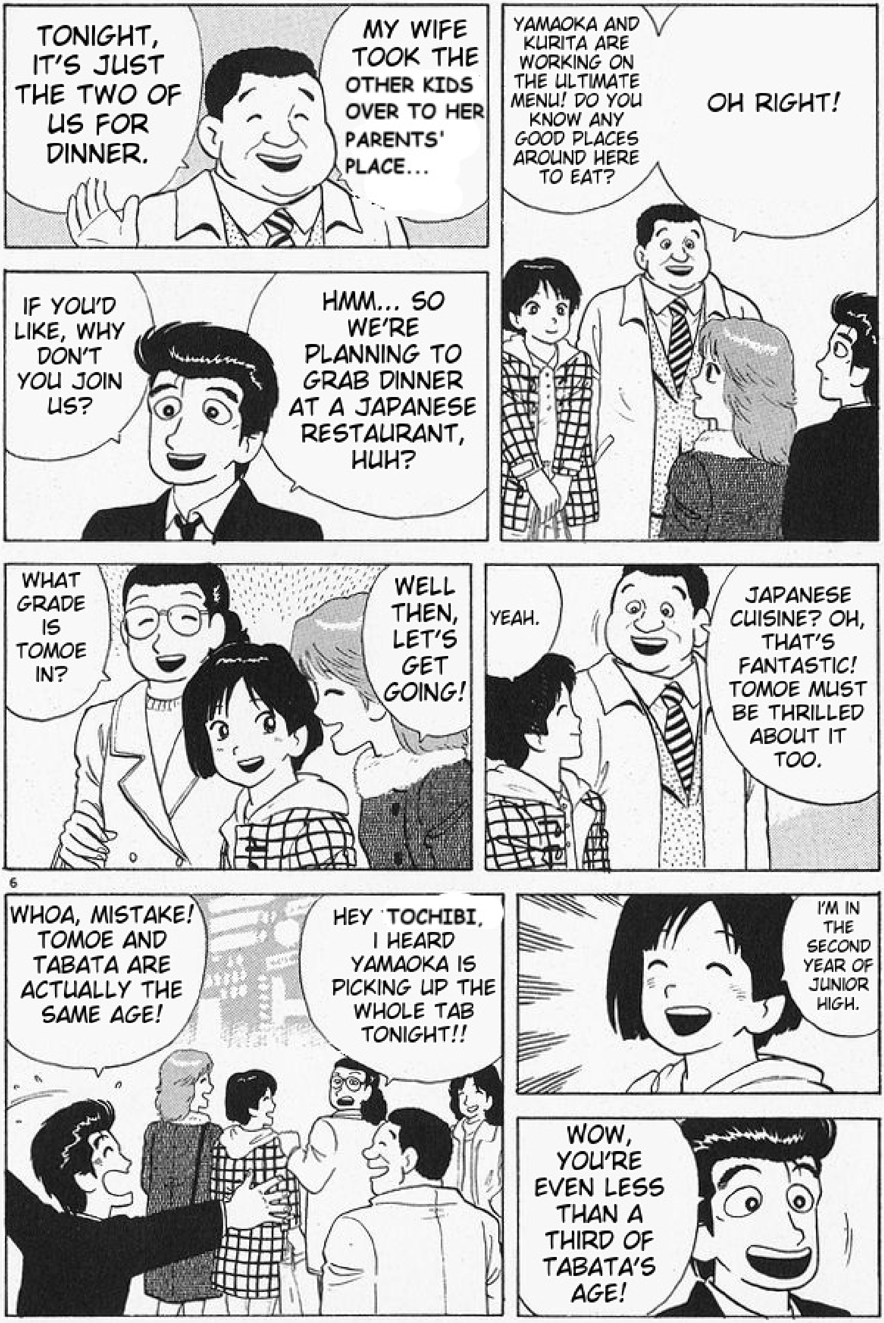


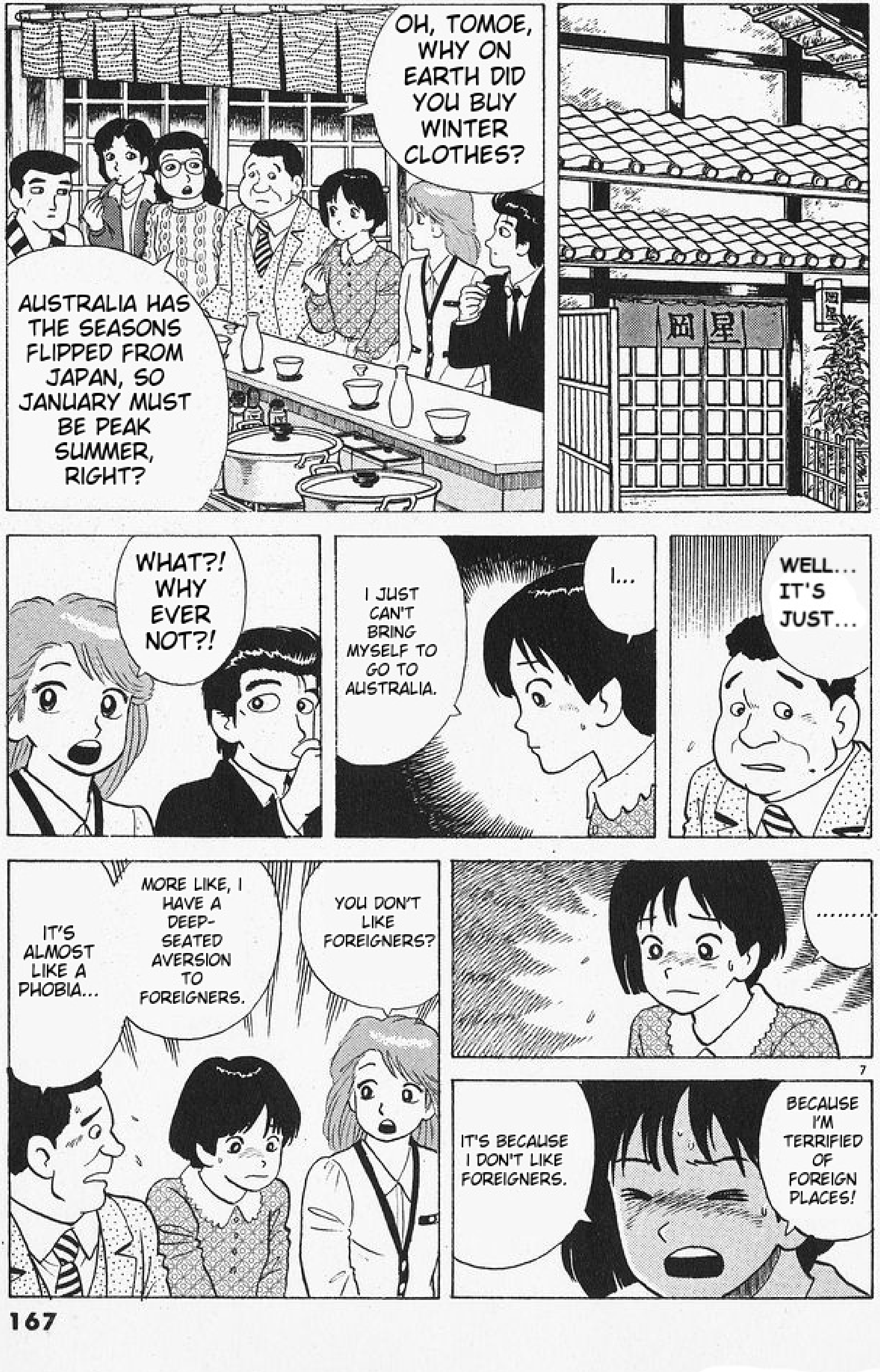

ALRIGHT, THAT'S A WRAP FOR THIS YEAR!
IT LOOKS SO NEAT AND TIDY!
BUT THINKING ABOUT HOW MESSY IT'LL GET ONCE I START WORKING AGAIN NEXT YEAR...
チラ
STILL, IF YOU LOSE THAT DESIRE TO WELCOME THE NEW YEAR IN A TIDY WAY, THEN WHAT'S LEFT OF BEING HUMAN?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? LOOK HOW BEAUTIFULLY EVERYTHING IS ORGANIZED!!
SO, WHAT'S THE SCOOP?
UNBELIEVABLE!
HEY, THANKS FOR WAITING!
GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT!
COME ON, LET'S DIG INTO OUR YEAR-END SOBA, THIS IS OUR FINAL FEAST!

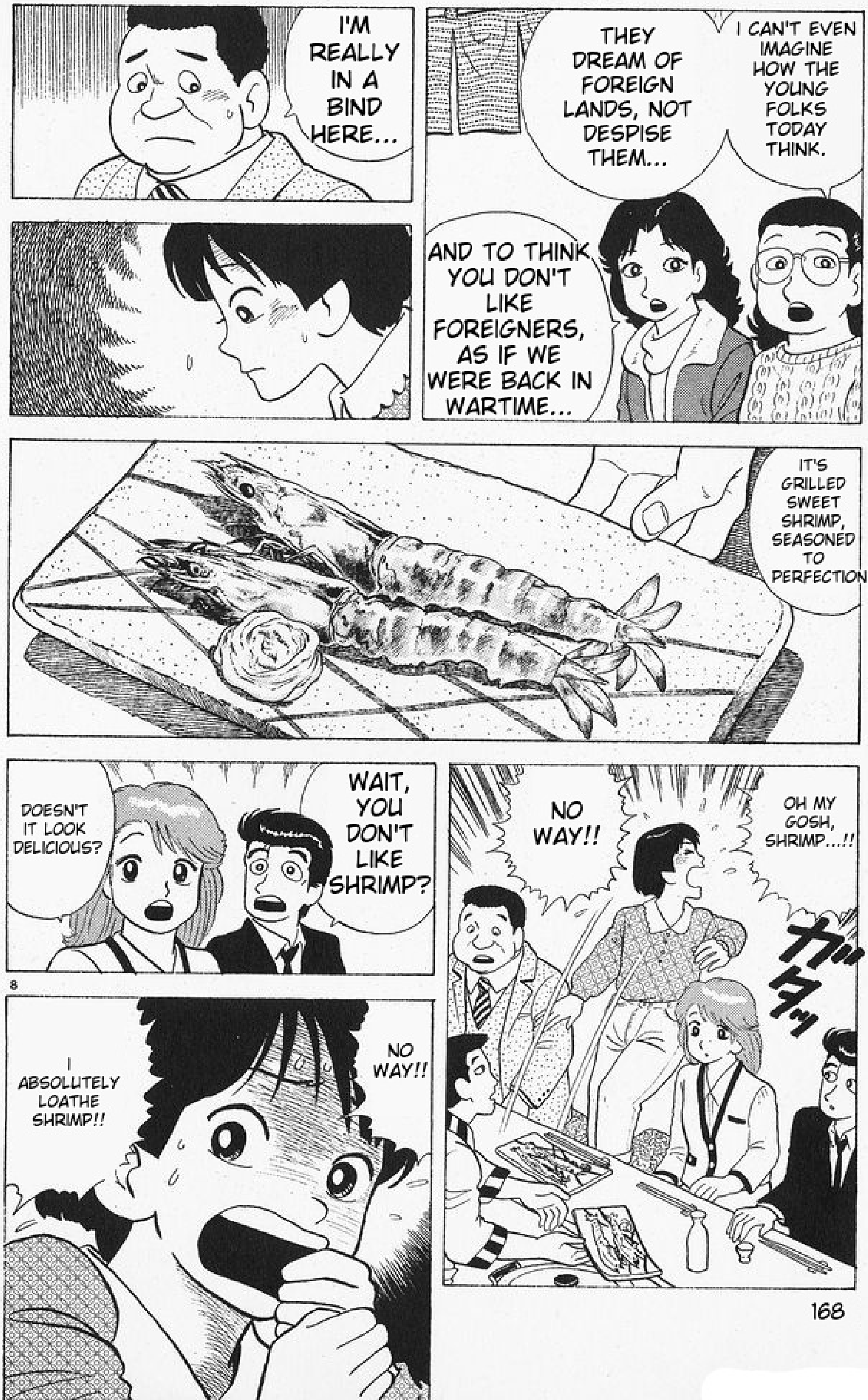

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SACRED SAKE?!
ABSOLUTELY, I'VE GOT EVERYTHING COVERED!
かんぱ〜い
THIS YEAR, EVERYONE DID A FANTASTIC JOB! LET'S KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM NEXT YEAR!
HEY, YAMAOKA, AREN'T YOU GOING TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THIS SOBA BEING OVERCOOKED AND TERRIBLE?
THIS IS A GOOD OMEN, YOU KNOW.
I WOULDN'T SAY SOMETHING SO GAUCHE.
WOW, YAMAOKA, YOU'RE REALLY COMING INTO YOUR OWN!
NOT YET. HE ISN'T! HE STILL HASN'T FINISHED THE 'ULTIMATE MENU'!
AH, CULTURAL DEPARTMENT, YOU'RE REALLY ON THE BALL!
HEY THERE, TOCHIBI-KUN!
HUH, YOU'RE STILL AROUND?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALREADY OFF TO SYDNEY!

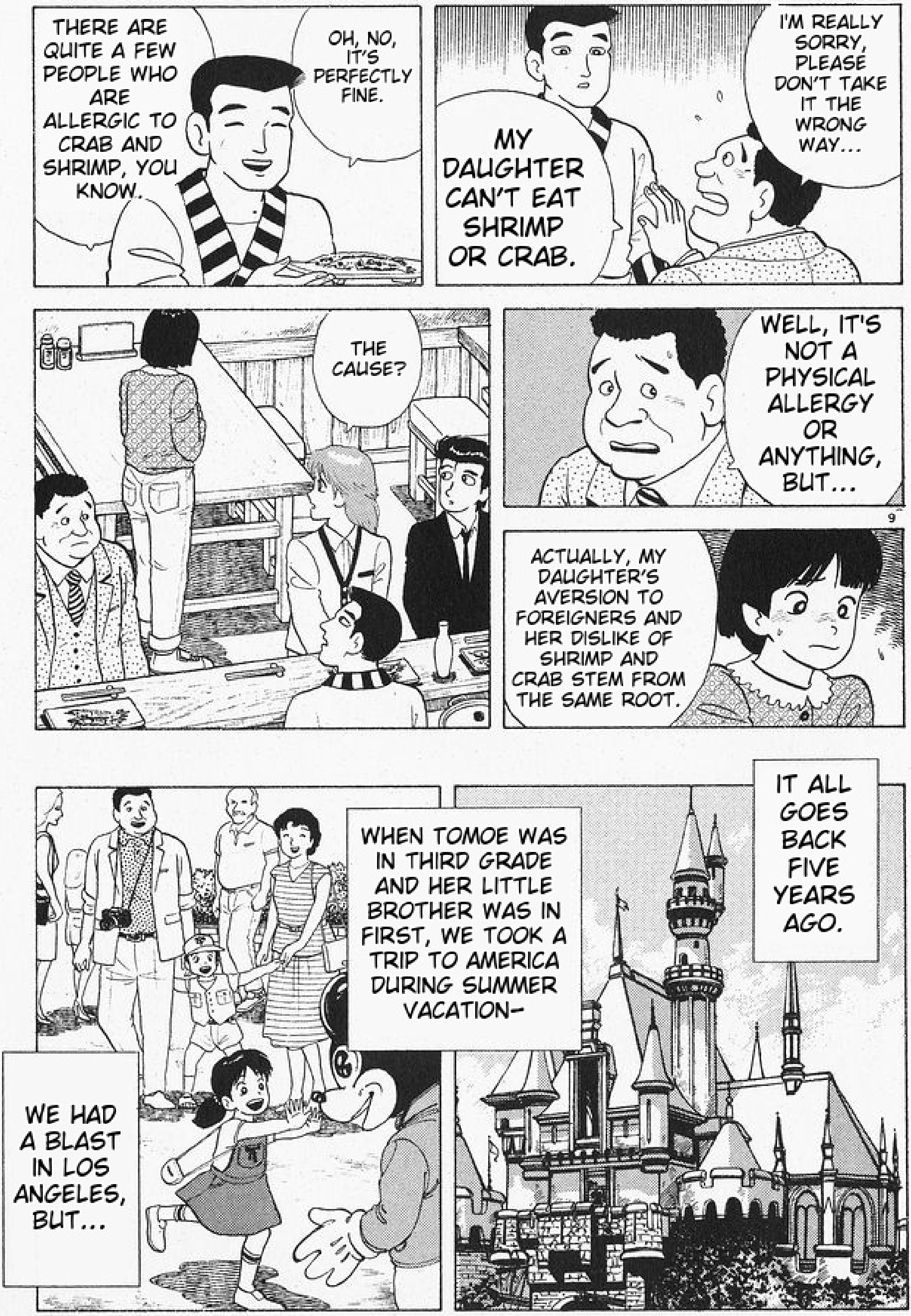

IT'S AWFUL TO THINK ABOUT...
I'M GOING NEXT MONTH.
THAT TOCHIBI FROM THE SOCIAL DEPARTMENT. I HEAR HE'S BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE SYDNEY BUREAU IN AUSTRALIA SOON?
HE DOESN'T SEEM TOO THRILLED ABOUT IT, DOES HE?
I GET THE FEELING THERE'S SOMETHING WEIGHING ON HIS MIND...
IS IT SOMETHING TO DO WITH WORK?
IT SEEMS THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN JUST THAT... IT'S COMPLICATED.
4
HMM...
ハナヤ寄席
ハナヤ寄席

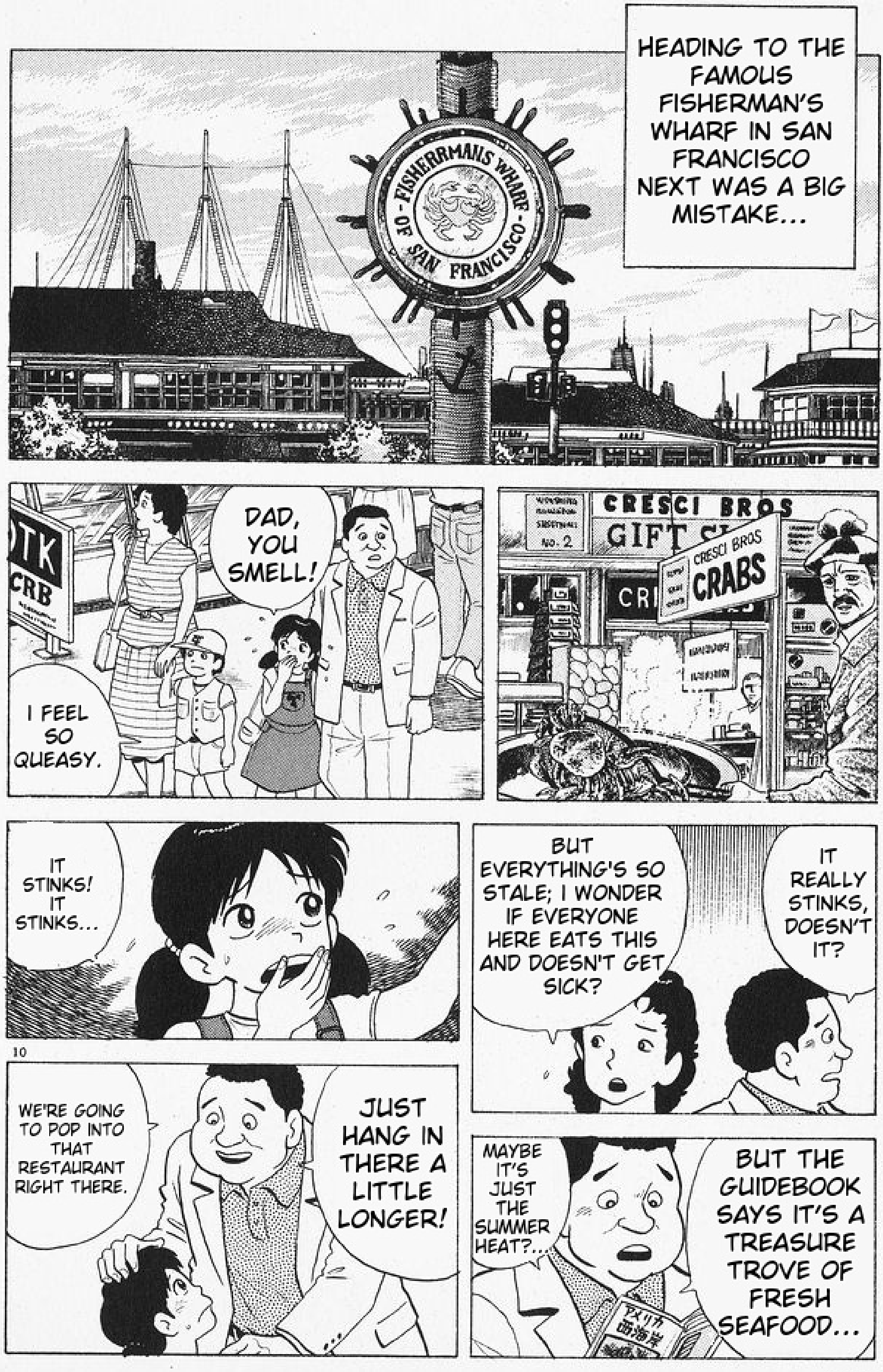

OH, THAT WAS A RIOT!
IT WAS SUCH A JOY TO END THE YEAR WITH LAUGHTER ON THE LAST DAY OF WORK!
EVERY TIME I LAUGH, I FIND MY STOMACH GRUMBLING AGAIN!
LET'S CHARGE STRAIGHT INTO 'OKABOSHI' WITHOUT HOLDING BACK!
WELL, IF IT ISN'T MR. TOCHIBI?
OH?
OUT SHOPPING, ARE WE?
TAKEYA
5
YEAH.
OH, THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, TOMOE.
NICE TO MEET YOU.

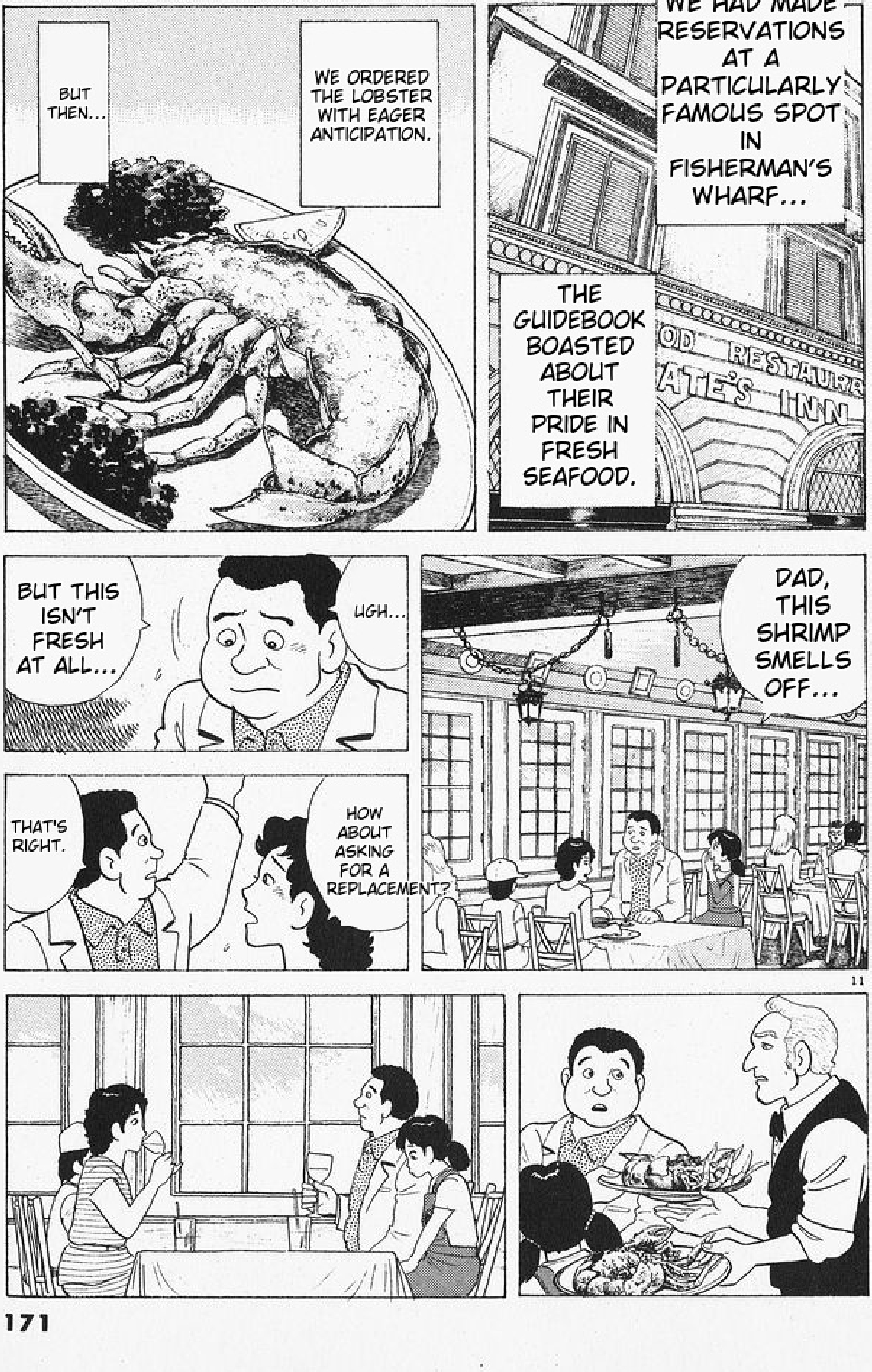

OH RIGHT!
YAMAOKA AND KURITA ARE WORKING ON THE ULTIMATE MENU! DO YOU KNOW ANY GOOD PLACES AROUND HERE TO EAT?
MY WIFE TOOK THE OTHER KIDS OVER TO HER PARENTS' PLACE...
TONIGHT, IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US FOR DINNER.
HMM... SO WE'RE PLANNING TO GRAB DINNER AT A JAPANESE RESTAURANT, HUH?
IF YOU'D LIKE, WHY DON'T YOU JOIN US?
JAPANESE CUISINE? OH, THAT'S FANTASTIC! TOMOE MUST BE THRILLED ABOUT IT TOO.
YEAH.
WELL THEN, LET'S GET GOING!
WHAT GRADE IS TOMOE IN?
6
I'M IN THE SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH.
WOW, YOU'RE EVEN LESS THAN A THIRD OF TABATA'S AGE!
HEY TOCHIBI, I HEARD YAMAOKA IS PICKING UP THE WHOLE TAB TONIGHT!!
WHOA, MISTAKE! TOMOE AND TABATA ARE ACTUALLY THE SAME AGE!

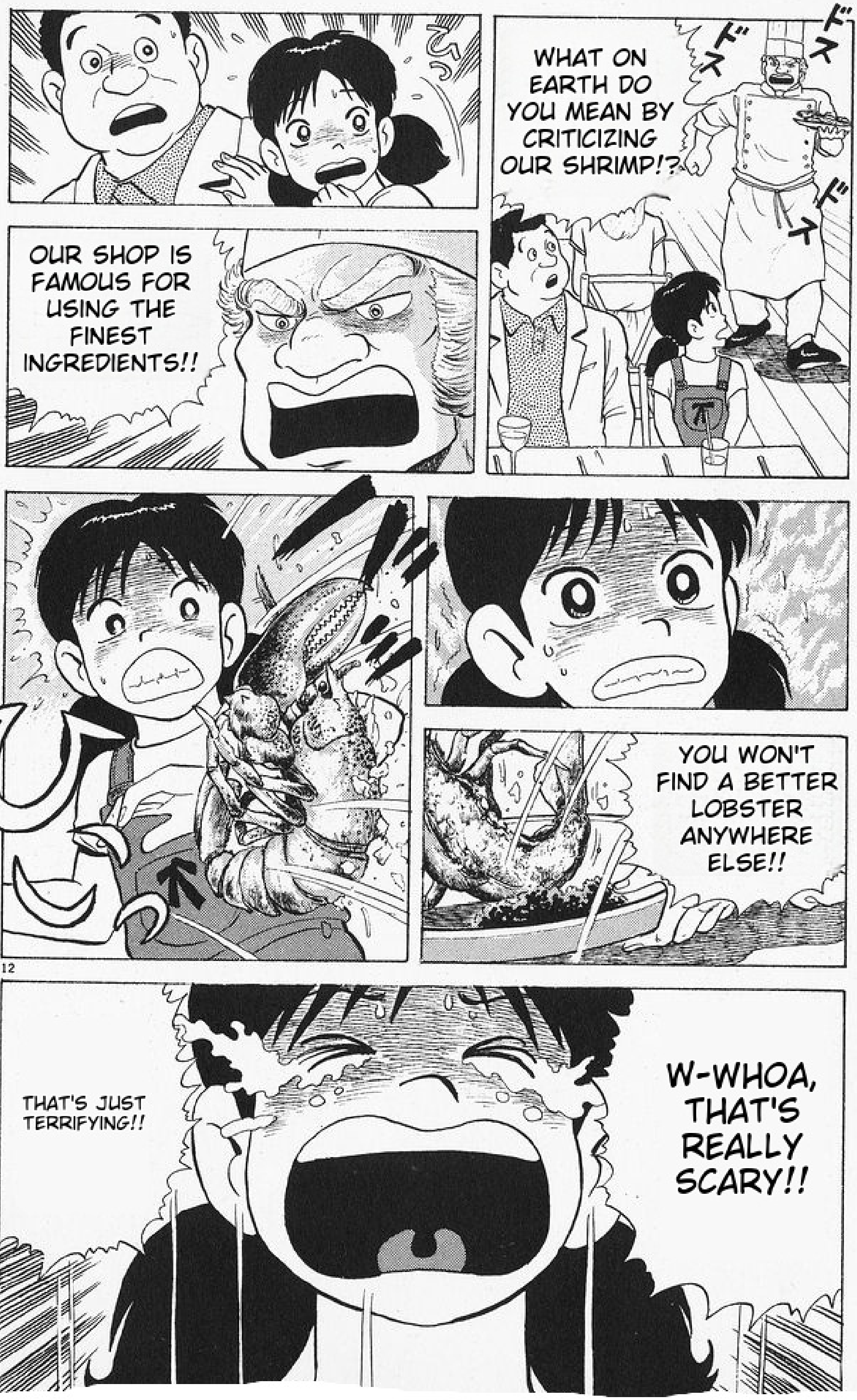

OH, TOMOE, WHY ON EARTH DID YOU BUY WINTER CLOTHES?
AUSTRALIA HAS THE SEASONS FLIPPED FROM JAPAN, SO JANUARY MUST BE PEAK SUMMER, RIGHT?
WELL… IT'S JUST…
I…
I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO GO TO AUSTRALIA.
WHAT?! WHY EVER NOT?!
………
BECAUSE I'M TERRIFIED OF FOREIGN PLACES!
IT'S BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE FOREIGNERS.
YOU DON'T LIKE FOREIGNERS?
MORE LIKE, I HAVE A DEEP-SEATED AVERSION TO FOREIGNERS.
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A PHOBIA…


I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW THE YOUNG FOLKS TODAY THINK.
THEY DREAM OF FOREIGN LANDS, NOT DESPISE THEM...
AND TO THINK YOU DON'T LIKE FOREIGNERS, AS IF WE WERE BACK IN WARTIME...
I'M REALLY IN A BIND HERE...
IT'S GRILLED SWEET SHRIMP, SEASONED TO PERFECTION.
OH MY GOSH, SHRIMP...!!
ガタッ
NO WAY!!
WAIT, YOU DON'T LIKE SHRIMP?
DOESN'T IT LOOK DELICIOUS?
NO WAY!!
I ABSOLUTELY LOATHE SHRIMP!!


THERE ARE QUITE A FEW PEOPLE WHO ARE ALLERGIC TO CRAB AND SHRIMP, YOU KNOW.
OH, NO, IT'S PERFECTLY FINE.
MY DAUGHTER CAN'T EAT SHRIMP OR CRAB.
I'M REALLY SORRY, PLEASE DON'T TAKE IT THE WRONG WAY...
THE CAUSE?
WELL, IT'S NOT A PHYSICAL ALLERGY OR ANYTHING, BUT...
ACTUALLY, MY DAUGHTER'S AVERSION TO FOREIGNERS AND HER DISLIKE OF SHRIMP AND CRAB STEM FROM THE SAME ROOT.
IT ALL GOES BACK FIVE YEARS AGO.
WHEN TOMOE WAS IN THIRD GRADE AND HER LITTLE BROTHER WAS IN FIRST, WE TOOK A TRIP TO AMERICA DURING SUMMER VACATION–
WE HAD A BLAST IN LOS ANGELES, BUT...


HEADING TO THE FAMOUS FISHERMAN'S WHARF IN SAN FRANCISCO NEXT WAS A BIG MISTAKE...
FISHERRMANS WHARF OF SAN FRANCISCO
CRESCI BROS GIFT SH
NO. 2
CRESCI BROS CRABS
DTK CRB
DAD, YOU SMELL!
I FEEL SO QUEASY.
IT REALLY STINKS, DOESN'T IT?
BUT EVERYTHING'S SO STALE; I WONDER IF EVERYONE HERE EATS THIS AND DOESN'T GET SICK?
IT STINKS! IT STINKS...
BUT THE GUIDEBOOK SAYS IT'S A TREASURE TROVE OF FRESH SEAFOOD...
MAYBE IT'S JUST THE SUMMER HEAT?...
アメリカ西海岸
JUST HANG IN THERE A LITTLE LONGER!
WE'RE GOING TO POP INTO THAT RESTAURANT RIGHT THERE.


WE HAD MADE RESERVATIONS AT A PARTICULARLY FAMOUS SPOT IN FISHERMAN'S WHARF...
OD RESTAURA
ATE'S INN
THE GUIDEBOOK BOASTED ABOUT THEIR PRIDE IN FRESH SEAFOOD.
WE ORDERED THE LOBSTER WITH EAGER ANTICIPATION.
BUT THEN...
DAD, THIS SHRIMP SMELLS OFF...
UGH...
BUT THIS ISN'T FRESH AT ALL...
HOW ABOUT ASKING FOR A REPLACEMENT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
11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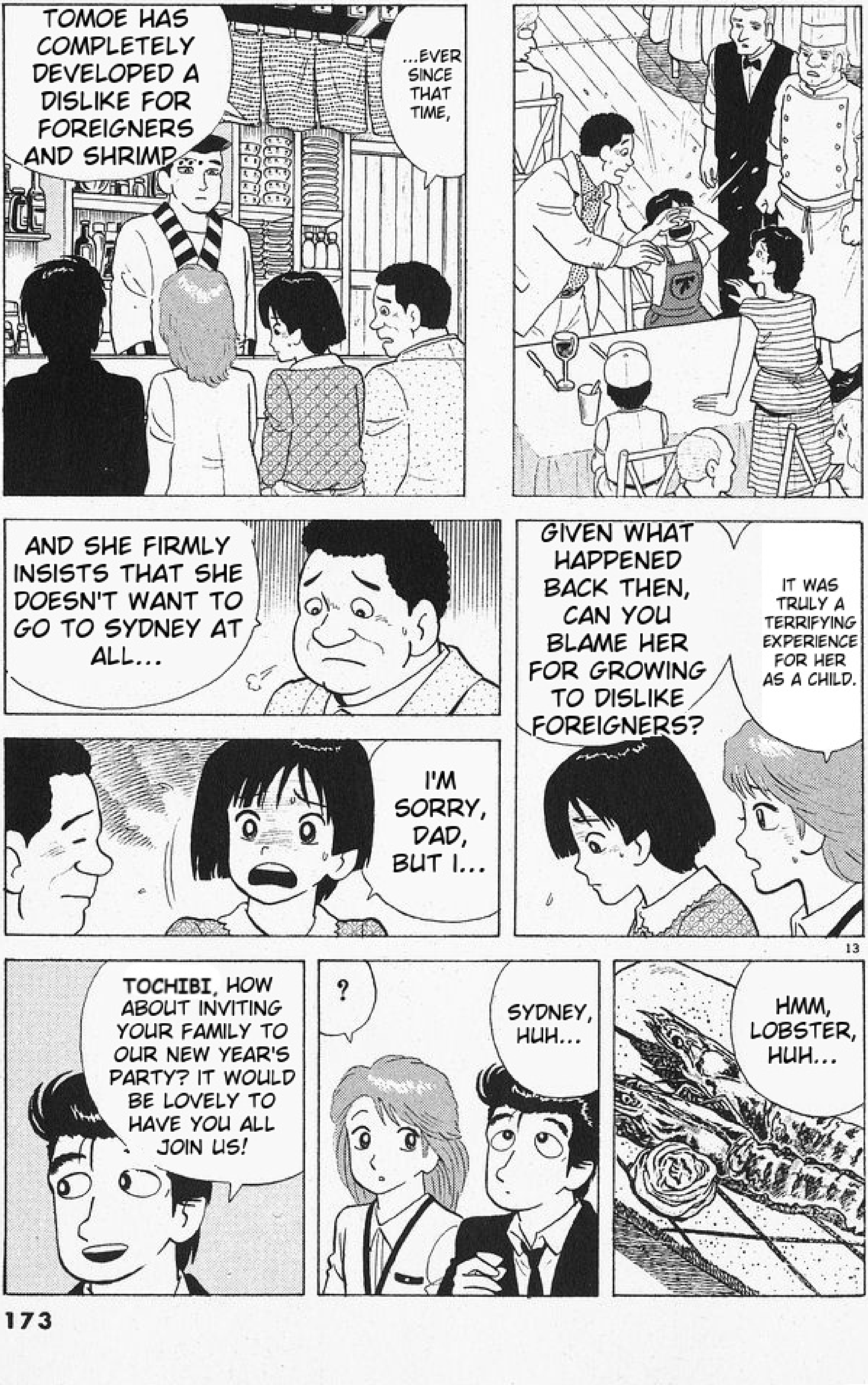
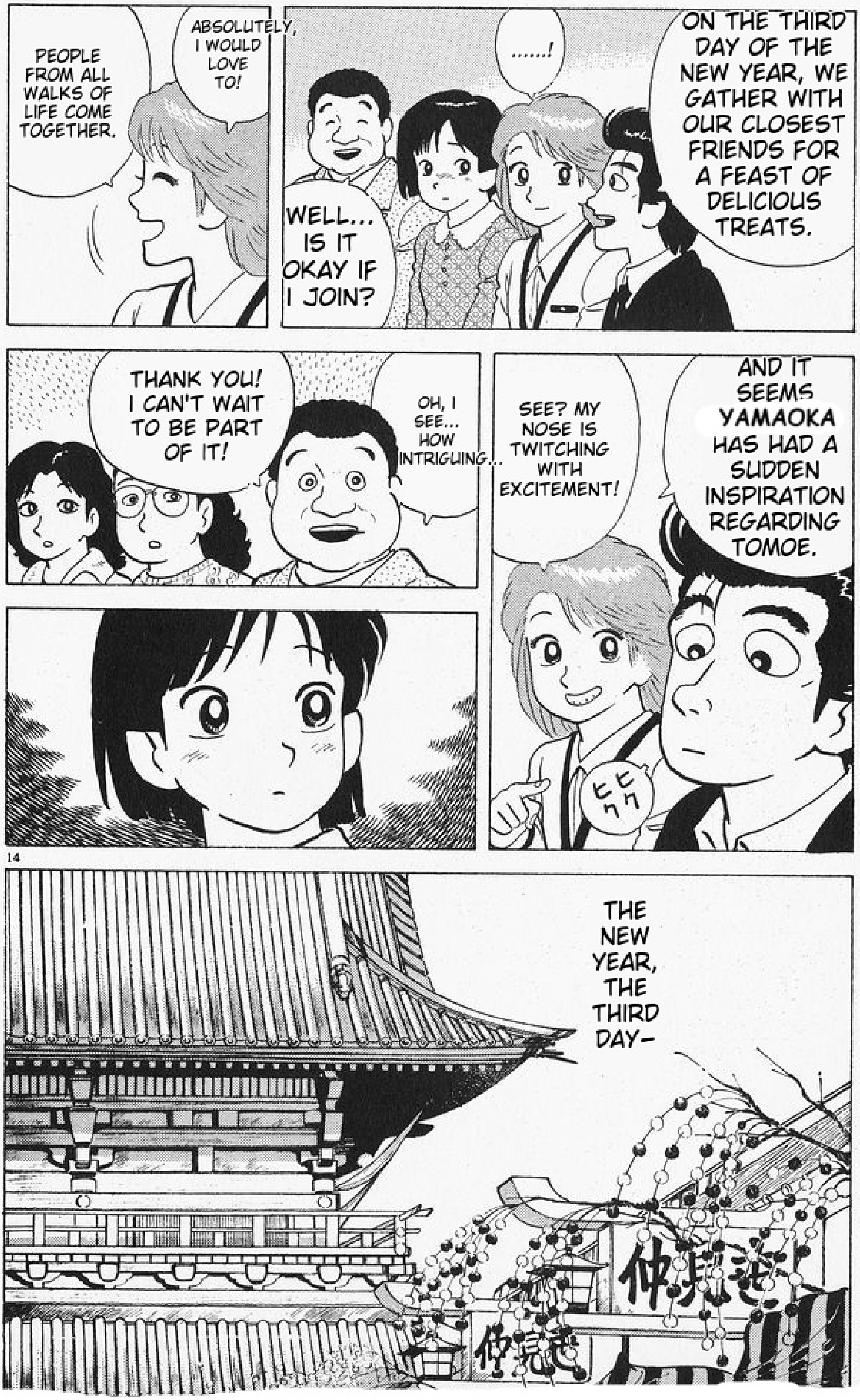
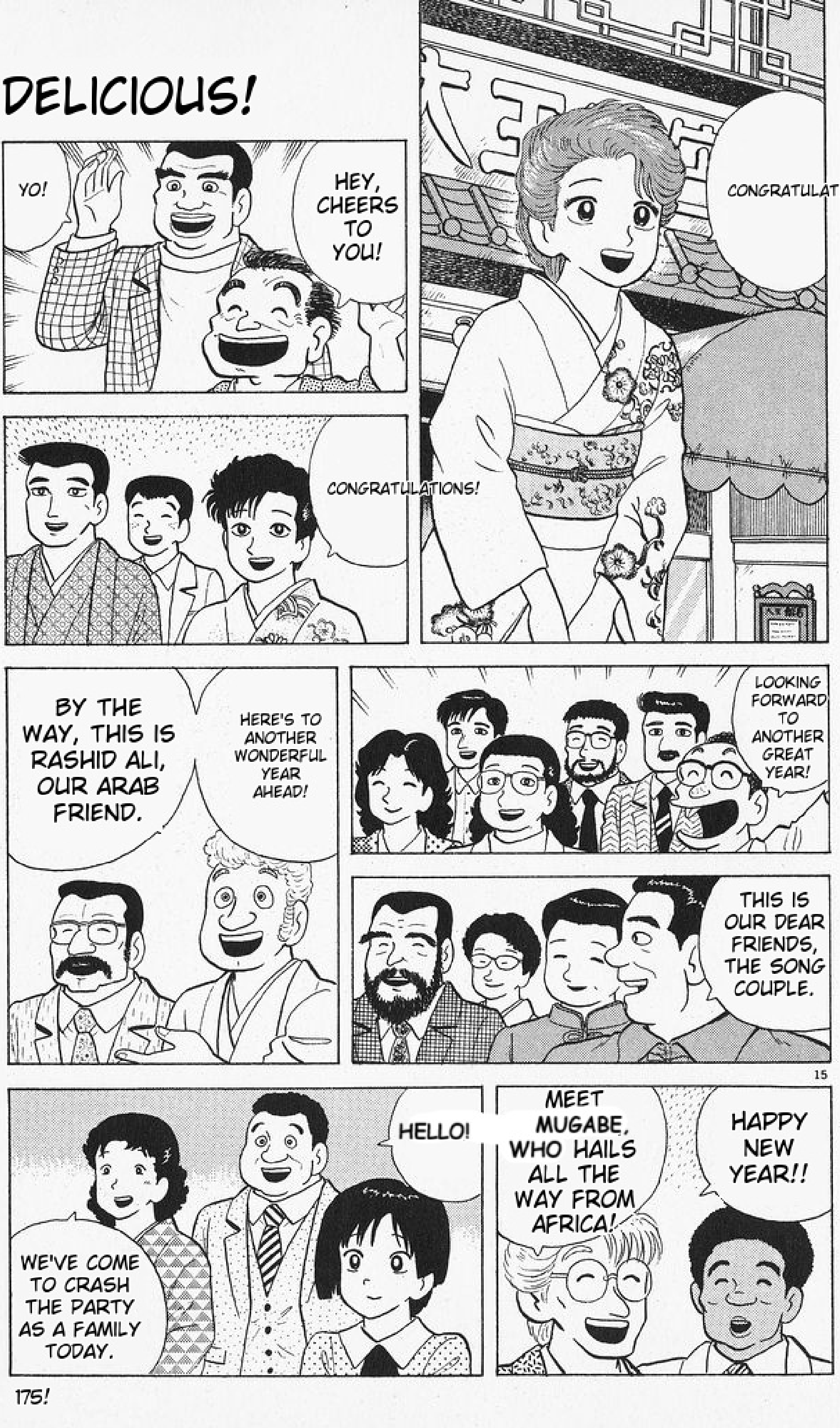
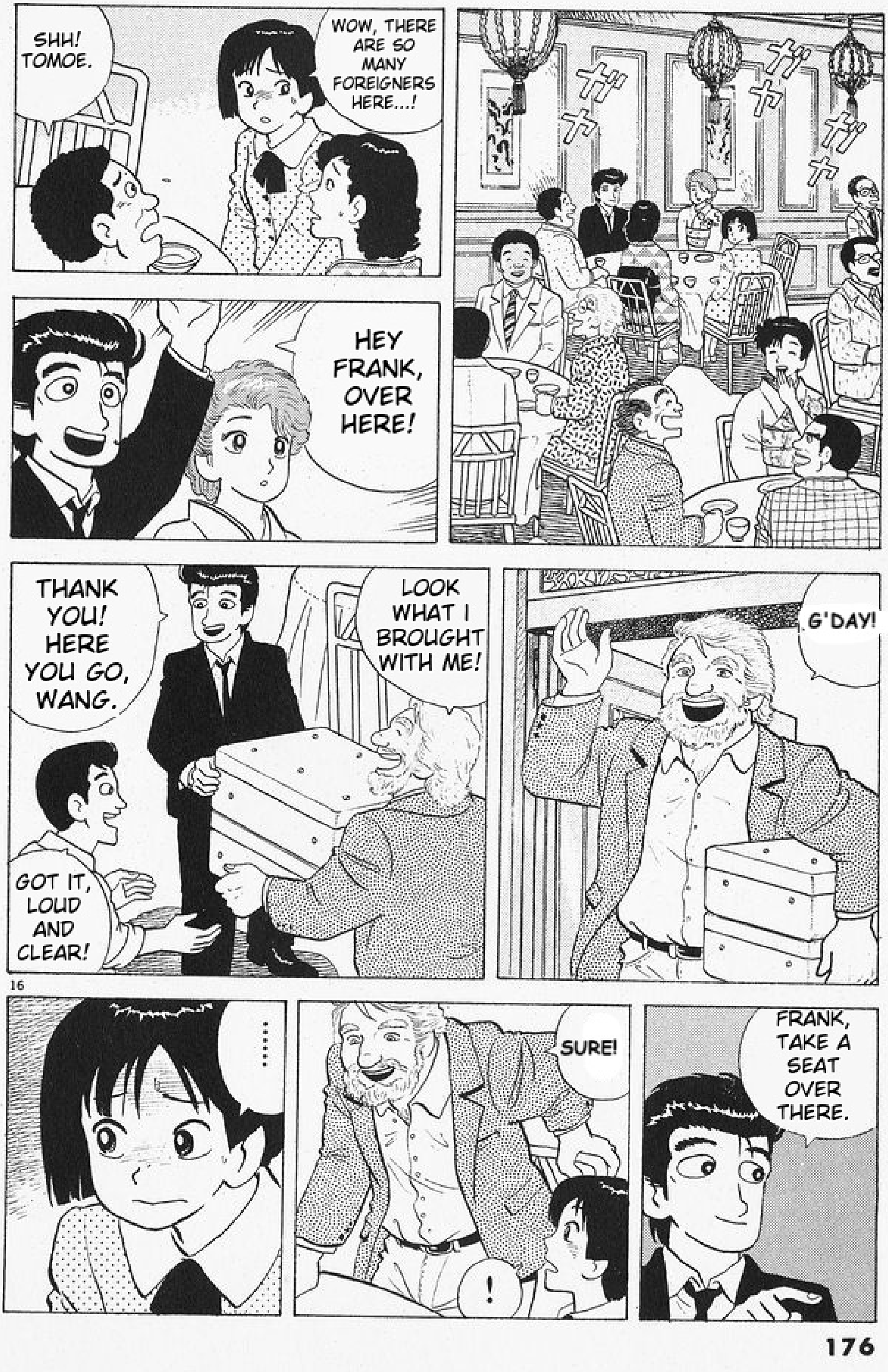
WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN BY CRITICIZING OUR SHRIMP!?
ドス
ひっ
OUR SHOP IS FAMOUS FOR USING THE FINEST INGREDIENTS!!
YOU WON'T FIND A BETTER LOBSTER ANYWHERE ELSE!!
W-WHOA, THAT'S REALLY SCARY!!
THAT'S JUST TERRIFYING!!


TOMOE HAS COMPLETELY DEVELOPED A DISLIKE FOR FOREIGNERS AND SHRIMP,
...EVER SINCE THAT TIME,
AND SHE FIRMLY INSISTS THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO SYDNEY AT ALL...
GIVEN WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN, CAN YOU BLAME HER FOR GROWING TO DISLIKE FOREIGNERS?
IT WAS TRULY A TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE FOR HER AS A CHILD.
I'M SORRY, DAD, BUT I...
13
TOCHIBI, HOW ABOUT INVITING YOUR FAMILY TO OUR NEW YEAR'S PARTY? IT WOULD BE LOVELY TO HAVE YOU ALL JOIN US!
?
SYDNEY, HUH...
HMM, LOBSTER, HUH...


ON THE THIRD DAY OF THE NEW YEAR, WE GATHER WITH OUR CLOSEST FRIENDS FOR A FEAST OF DELICIOUS TREATS.
......!
WELL... IS IT OKAY IF I JOIN?
ABSOLUTELY, I WOULD LOVE TO!
PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE COME TOGETHER.
AND IT SEEMS YAMAOKA HAS HAD A SUDDEN INSPIRATION REGARDING TOMOE.
SEE? MY NOSE IS TWITCHING WITH EXCITEMENT!
ヒクヒク
OH, I SEE... HOW INTRIGUING...
THANK YOU! I CAN'T WAIT TO BE PART OF IT!
THE NEW YEAR, THE THIRD DAY–
仲見世
仲見世


CONGRATULATIONS!
HEY, CHEERS TO YOU!
YO!
CONGRATULATIONS!
LOOKING FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!
THIS IS OUR DEAR FRIENDS, THE SONG COUPLE.
HERE'S TO ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR AHEAD!
BY THE WAY, THIS IS RASHID ALI, OUR ARAB FRIEND.
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!
MEET MUGABE, WHO HAILS ALL THE WAY FROM AFRICA!
HELLO!
WE'VE COME TO CRASH THE PARTY AS A FAMILY TODAY.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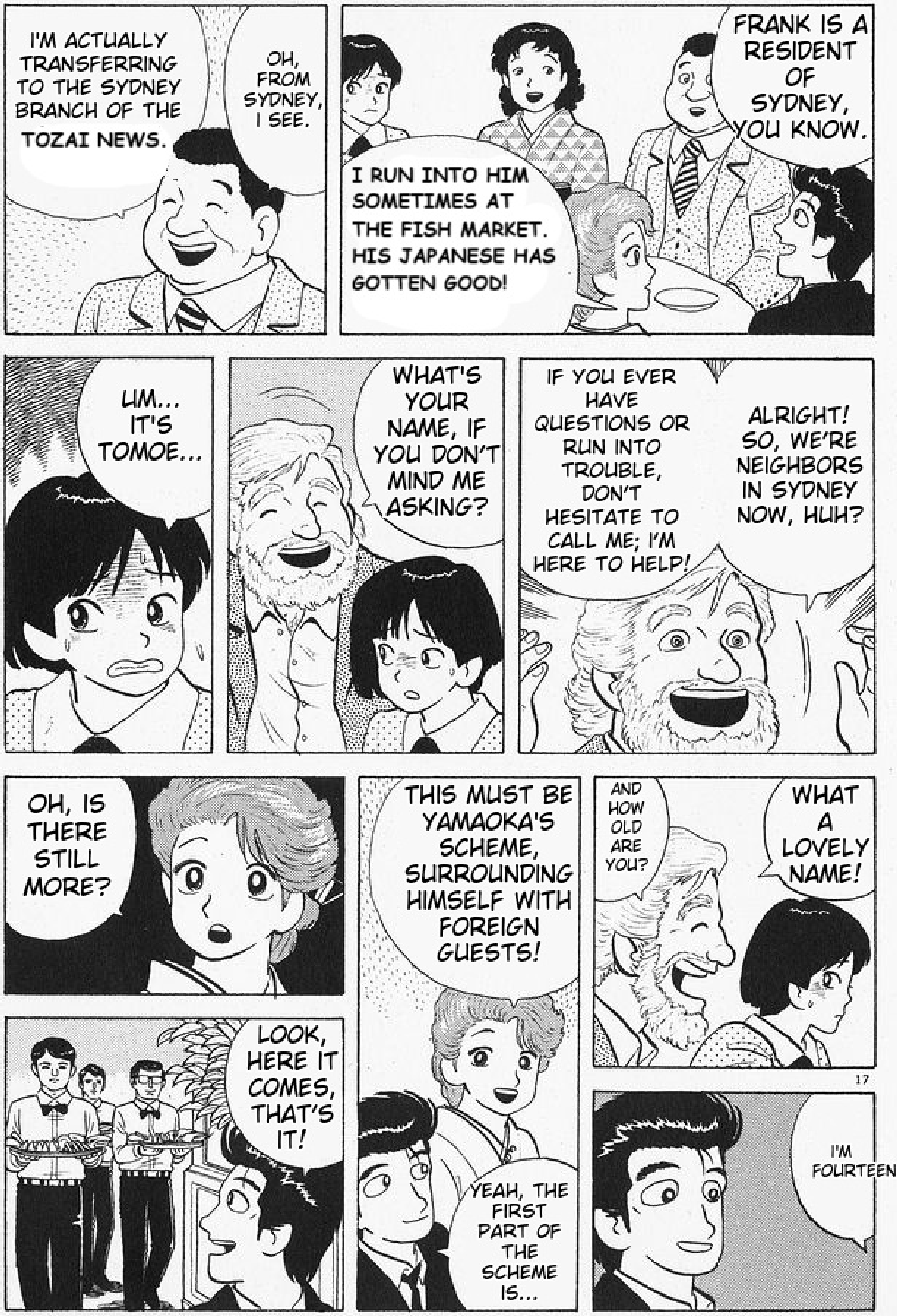
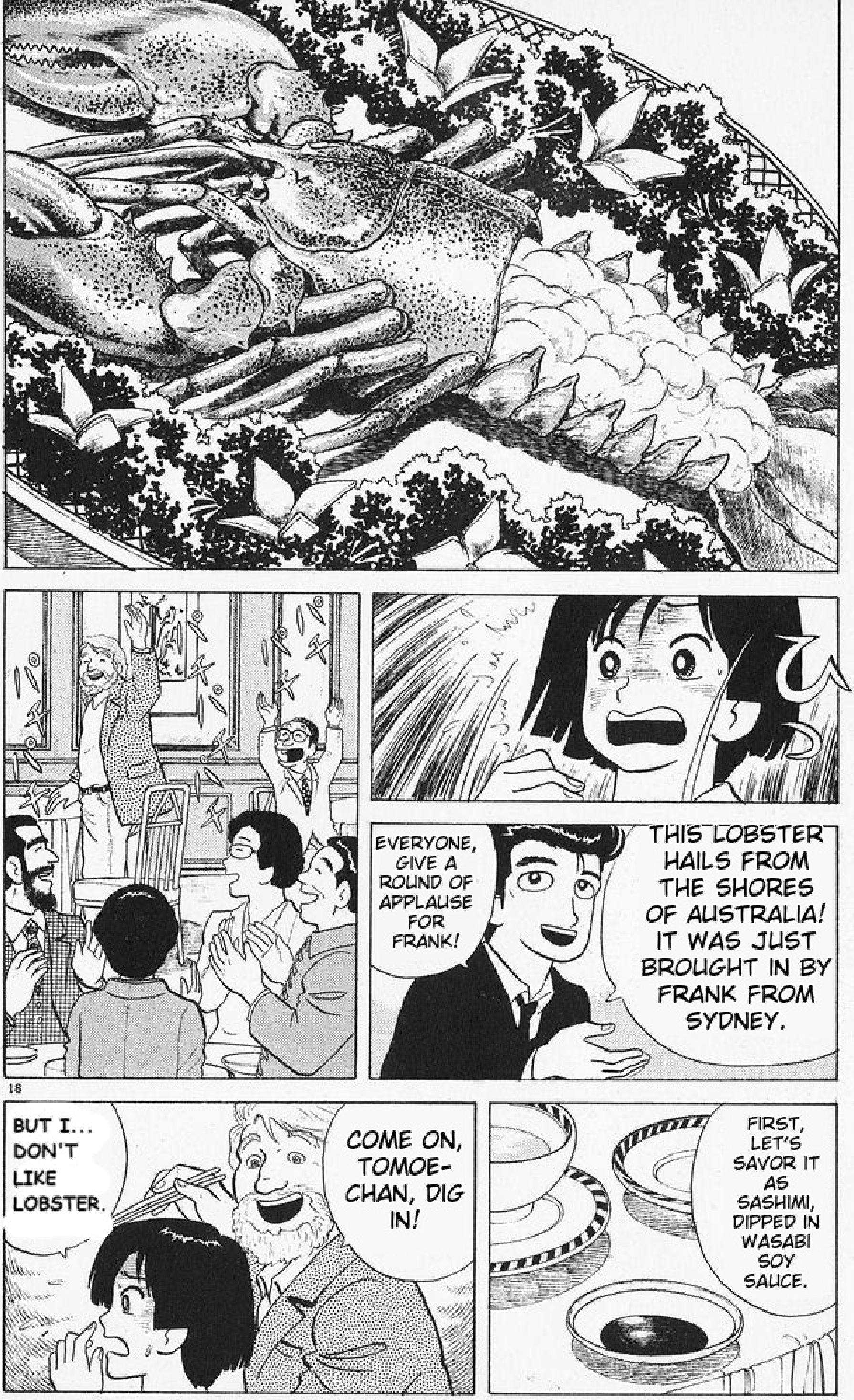
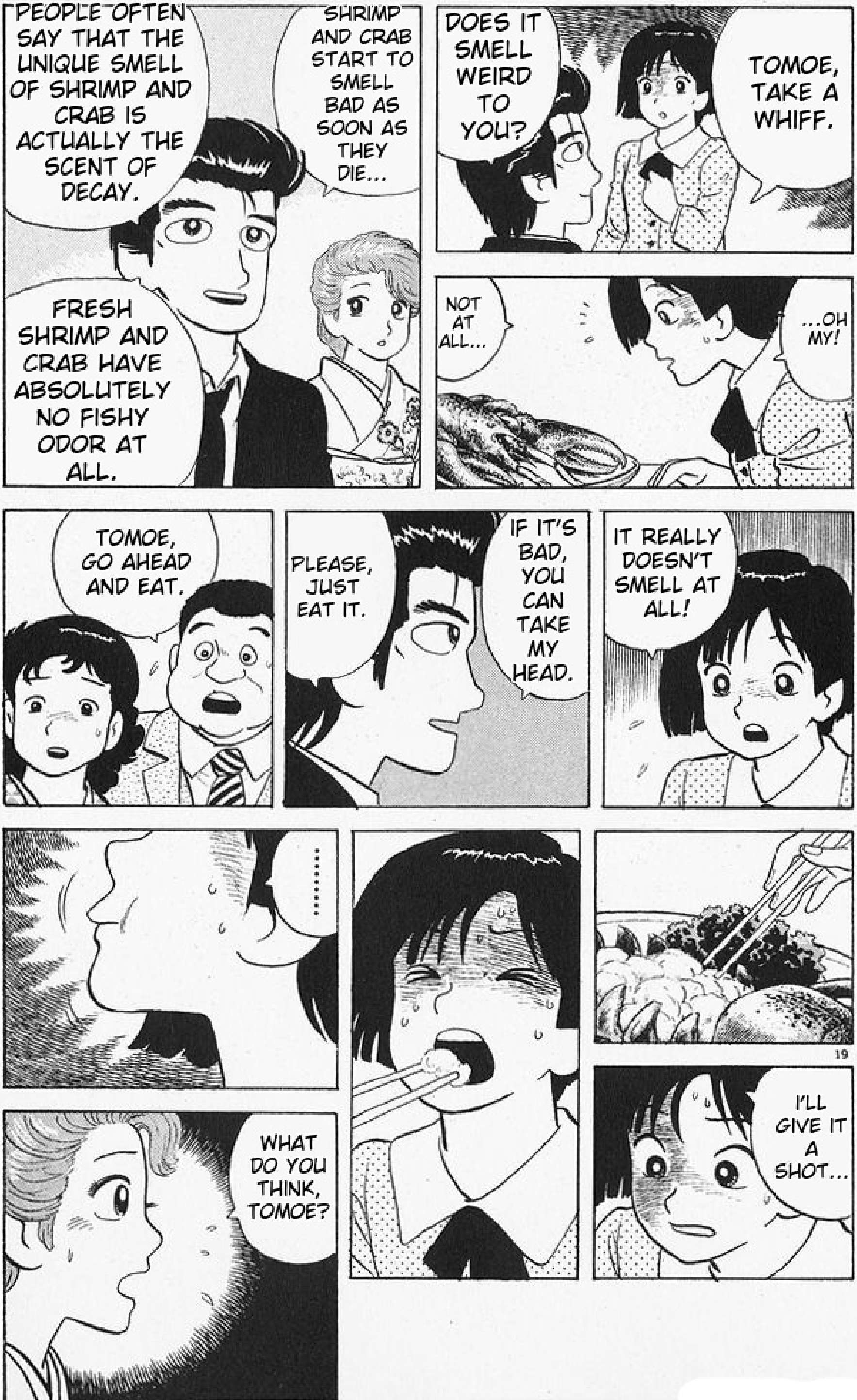
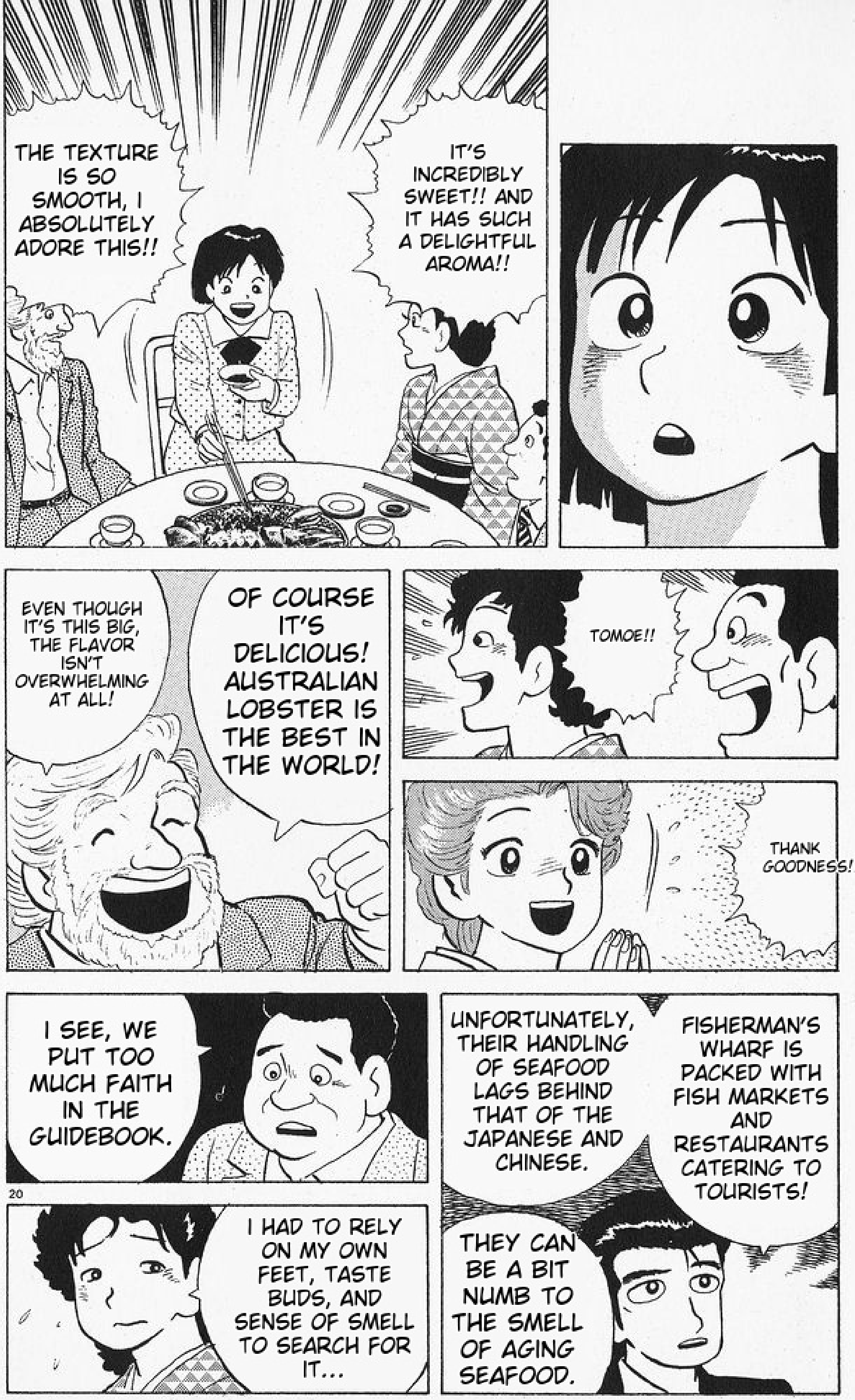
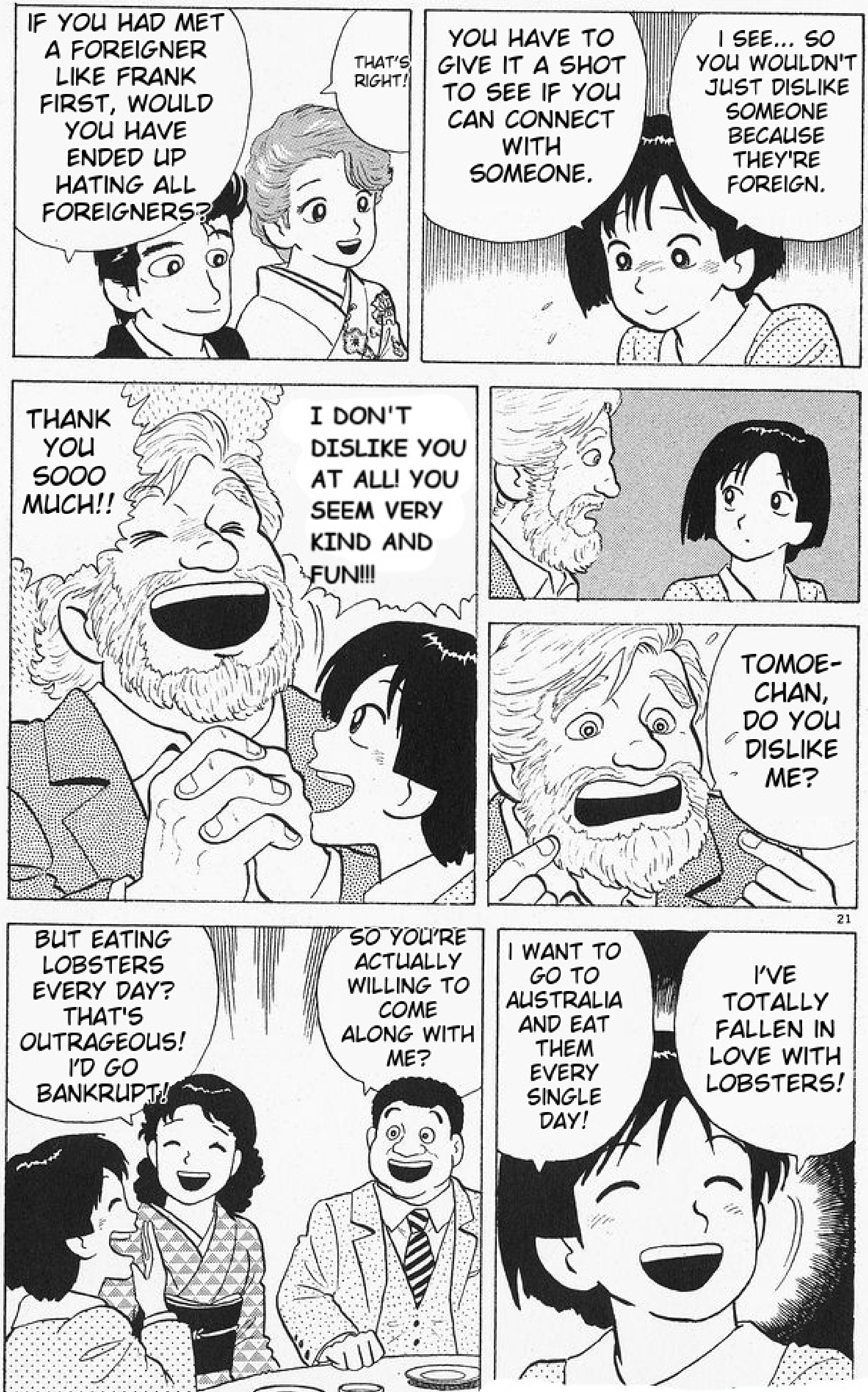
WOW, THERE ARE SO MANY FOREIGNERS HERE...!
SHH! TOMOE.
HEY FRANK, OVER HERE!
G'DAY!
LOOK WHAT I BROUGHT WITH ME!
THANK YOU! HERE YOU GO, WANG.
GOT IT, LOUD AND CLEAR!
FRANK, TAKE A SEAT OVER THERE.
SURE!
!
……

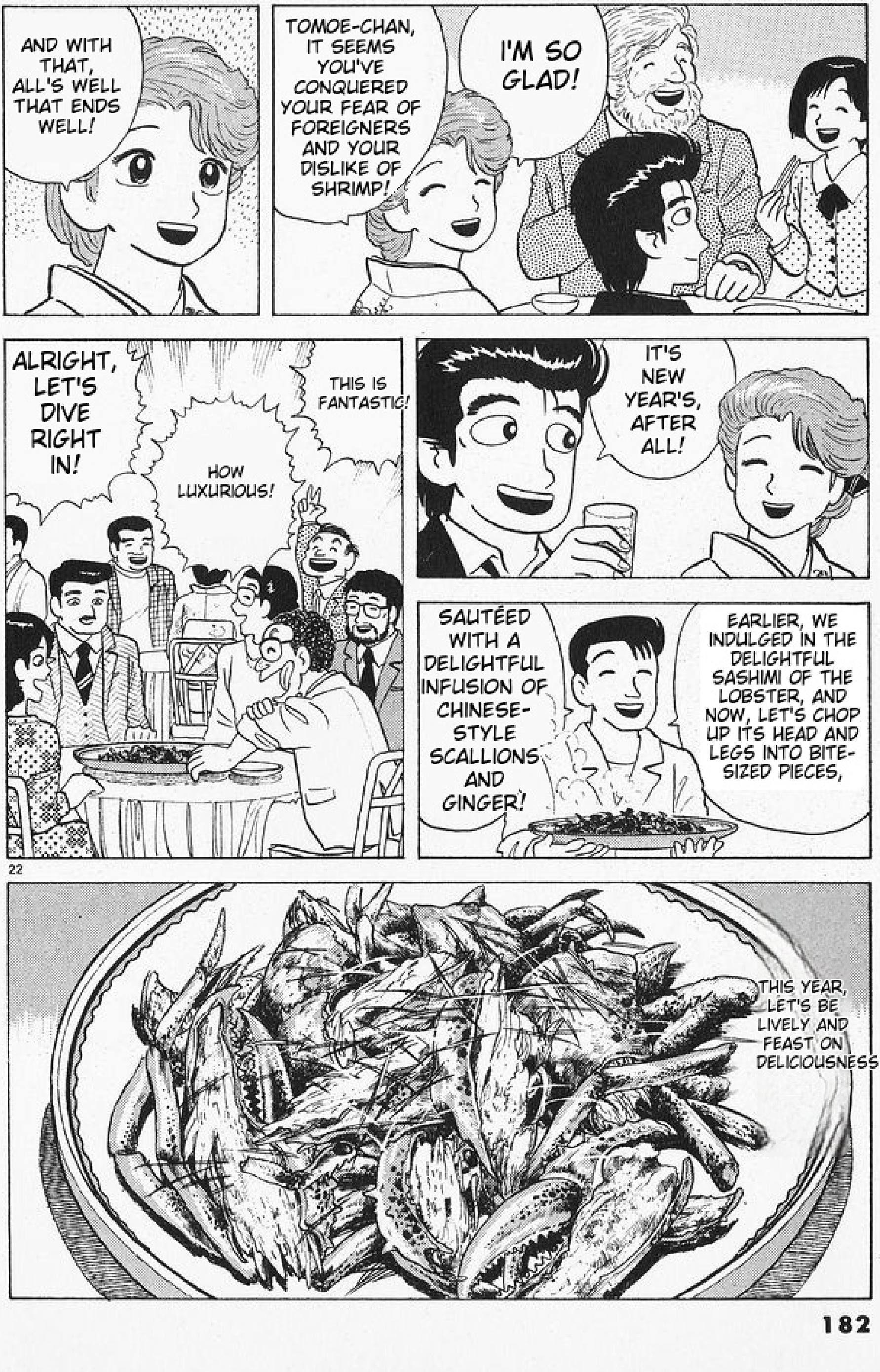

FRANK IS A RESIDENT OF SYDNEY, YOU KNOW.
I RUN INTO HIM SOMETIMES AT THE FISH MARKET. HIS JAPANESE HAS GOTTEN GOOD!
OH, FROM SYDNEY, I SEE.
I'M ACTUALLY TRANSFERRING TO THE SYDNEY BRANCH OF THE TOZAI NEWS.
ALRIGHT! SO, WE'RE NEIGHBORS IN SYDNEY NOW, HUH?
IF YOU EVER HAVE QUESTIONS OR RUN INTO TROUBLE, DON'T HESITATE TO CALL ME; I'M HERE TO HELP!
WHAT'S YOUR NAME, IF YOU DON'T MIND ME ASKING?
UM... IT'S TOMOE...
WHAT A LOVELY NAME!
AND HOW OLD ARE YOU?
17
I'M FOURTEEN.
THIS MUST BE YAMAOKA'S SCHEME, SURROUNDING HIMSELF WITH FOREIGN GUESTS!
YEAH, THE FIRST PART OF THE SCHEME IS...
OH, IS THERE STILL MORE?
LOOK, HERE IT COMES, THAT'S IT!


ひ
THIS LOBSTER HAILS FROM THE SHORES OF AUSTRALIA! IT WAS JUST BROUGHT IN BY FRANK FROM SYDNEY.
EVERYONE, GIVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR FRANK!
FIRST, LET'S SAVOR IT AS SASHIMI, DIPPED IN WASABI SOY SAUCE.
COME ON, TOMOE-CHAN, DIG IN!
BUT I... DON'T LIKE LOBSTER.


TOMOE, TAKE A WHIFF.
DOES IT SMELL WEIRD TO YOU?
...OH MY!
NOT AT ALL...
SHRIMP AND CRAB START TO SMELL BAD AS SOON AS THEY DIE...
PEOPLE OFTEN SAY THAT THE UNIQUE SMELL OF SHRIMP AND CRAB IS ACTUALLY THE SCENT OF DECAY.
FRESH SHRIMP AND CRAB HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FISHY ODOR AT ALL.
IT REALLY DOESN'T SMELL AT ALL!
IF IT'S BAD, YOU CAN TAKE MY HEAD.
PLEASE, JUST EAT IT.
TOMOE, GO AHEAD AND EAT.
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT...
......
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TOMOE?

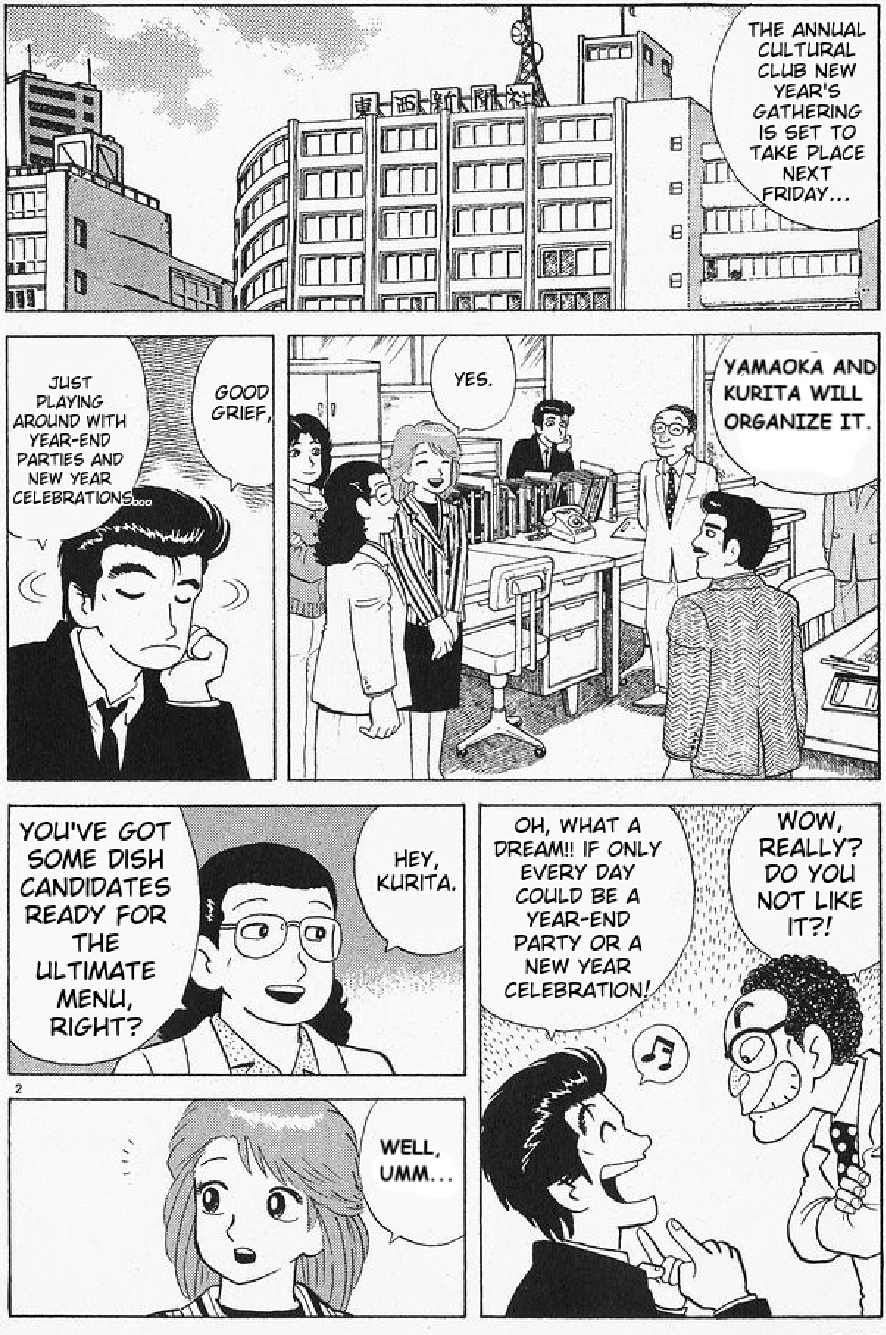

IT'S INCREDIBLY SWEET!! AND IT HAS SUCH A DELIGHTFUL AROMA!!
THE TEXTURE IS SO SMOOTH, I ABSOLUTELY ADORE THIS!!
TOMOE!!
THANK GOODNESS!!
OF COURSE IT'S DELICIOUS! AUSTRALIAN LOBSTER IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THIS BIG, THE FLAVOR ISN'T OVERWHELMING AT ALL!
FISHERMAN'S WHARF IS PACKED WITH FISH MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS CATERING TO TOURISTS!
UNFORTUNATELY, THEIR HANDLING OF SEAFOOD LAGS BEHIND THAT OF THE JAPANESE AND CHINESE.
THEY CAN BE A BIT NUMB TO THE SMELL OF AGING SEAFOOD.
I SEE, WE PUT TOO MUCH FAITH IN THE GUIDEBOOK.
I HAD TO RELY ON MY OWN FEET, TASTE BUDS, AND SENSE OF SMELL TO SEARCH FOR IT...


I SEE... SO YOU WOULDN'T JUST DISLIKE SOMEONE BECAUSE THEY'RE FOREIGN.
YOU HAVE TO GIVE IT A SHOT TO SEE IF YOU CAN CONNECT WITH SOMEONE.
THAT'S RIGHT!
IF YOU HAD MET A FOREIGNER LIKE FRANK FIRST, WOULD YOU HAVE ENDED UP HATING ALL FOREIGNERS?
TOMOE-CHAN, DO YOU DISLIKE ME?
I DON'T DISLIKE YOU AT ALL! YOU SEEM VERY KIND AND FUN!!!
THANK YOU SOOO MUCH!!
I'VE TOTALLY FALLEN IN LOVE WITH LOBSTERS!
I WANT TO GO TO AUSTRALIA AND EAT THEM EVERY SINGLE DAY!
SO YOU'RE ACTUALLY WILLING TO COME ALONG WITH ME?
BUT EATING LOBSTERS EVERY DAY? THAT'S OUTRAGEOUS! I'D GO BANKRUPT!

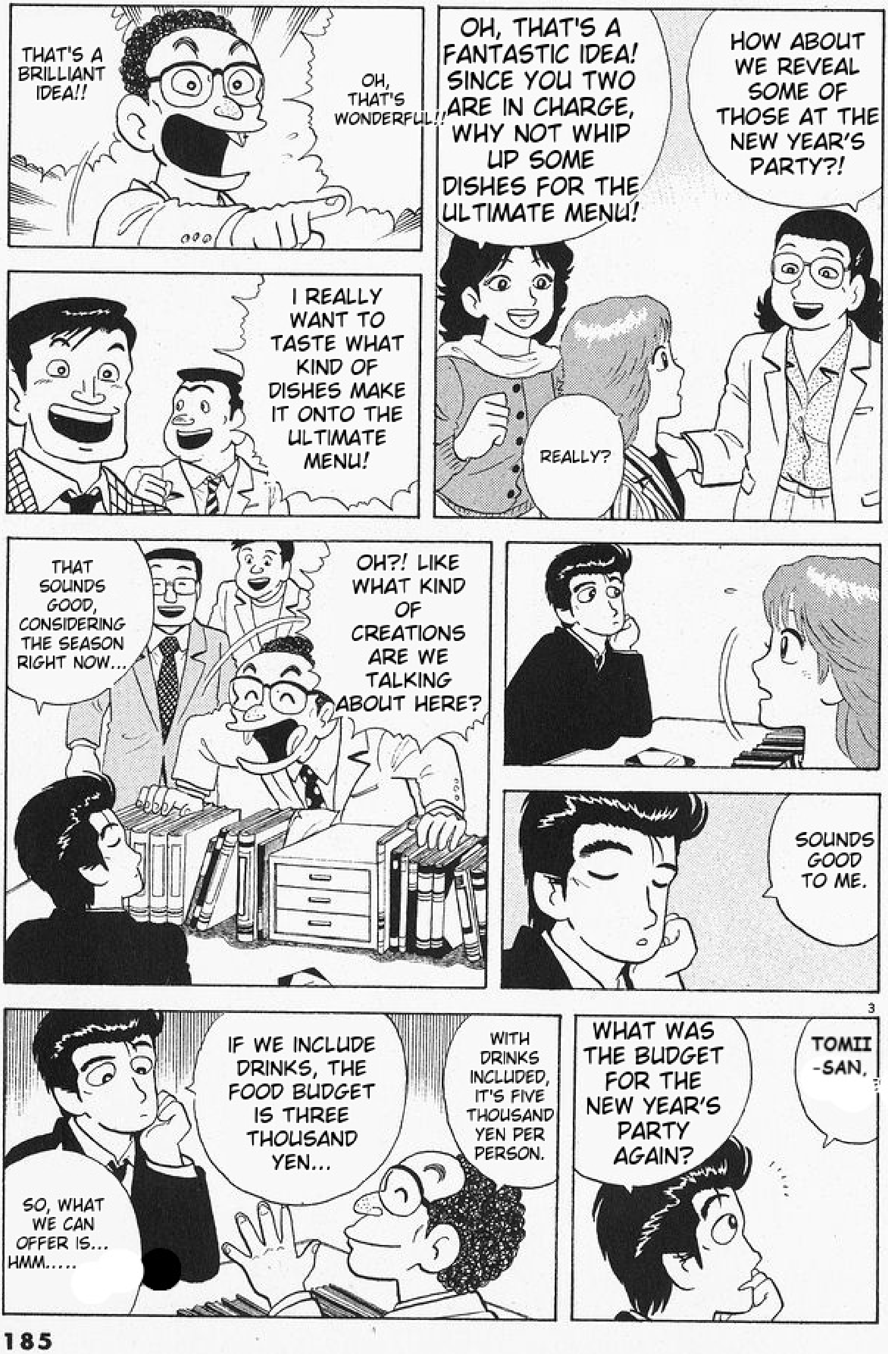

I'M SO GLAD!
TOMOE-CHAN, IT SEEMS YOU'VE CONQUERED YOUR FEAR OF FOREIGNERS AND YOUR DISLIKE OF SHRIMP!
AND WITH THAT, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL!
IT'S NEW YEAR'S, AFTER ALL!
EARLIER, WE INDULGED IN THE DELIGHTFUL SASHIMI OF THE LOBSTER, AND NOW, LET'S CHOP UP ITS HEAD AND LEGS INTO BITE-SIZED PIECES,
SAUTÉED WITH A DELIGHTFUL INFUSION OF CHINESE-STYLE SCALLIONS AND GINGER!
ALRIGHT, LET'S DIVE RIGHT IN!
THIS IS FANTASTIC!
HOW LUXURIOUS!
THIS YEAR, LET'S BE LIVELY AND FEAST ON DELICIOUSNESS!

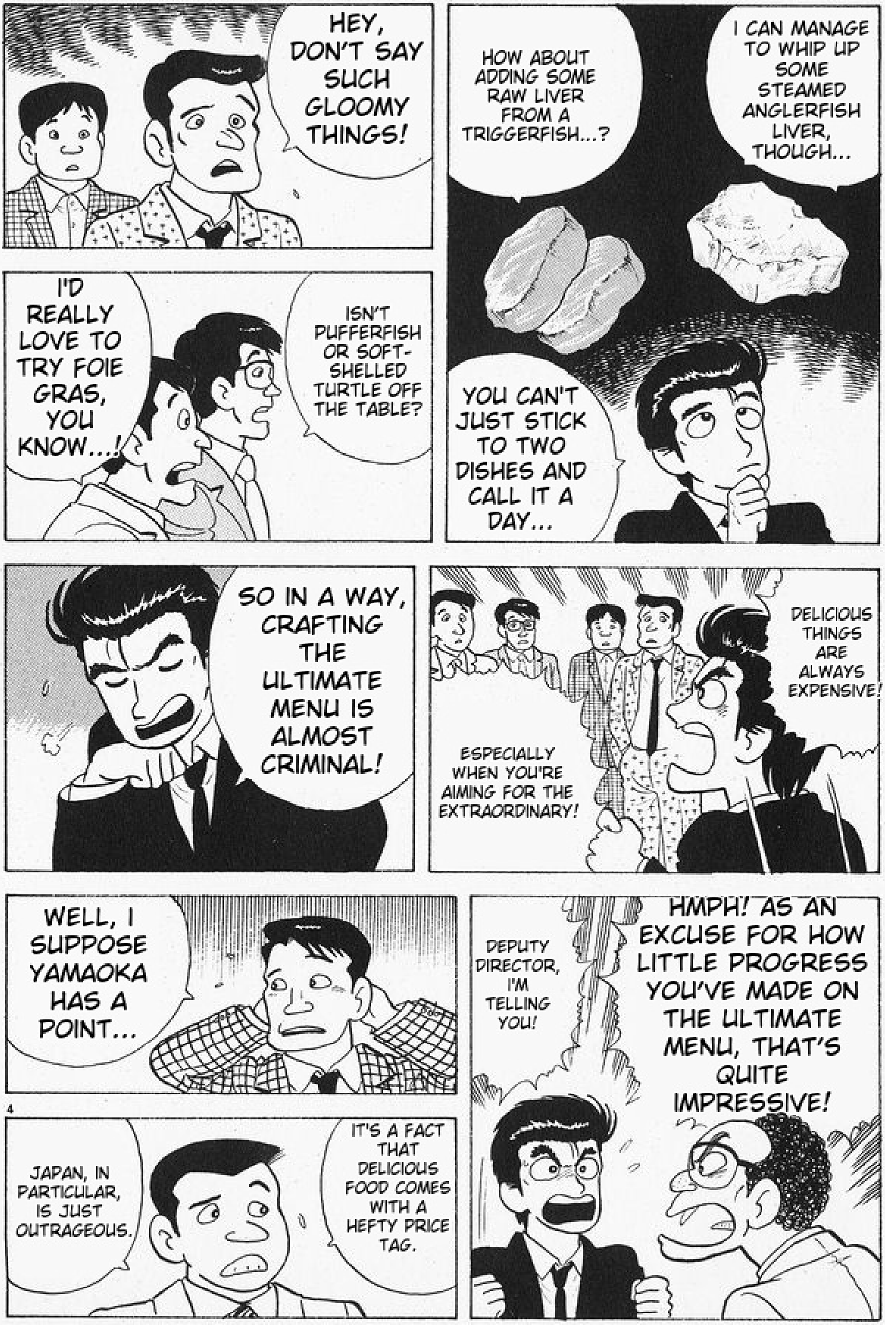
第7話

究極の裏メニュー

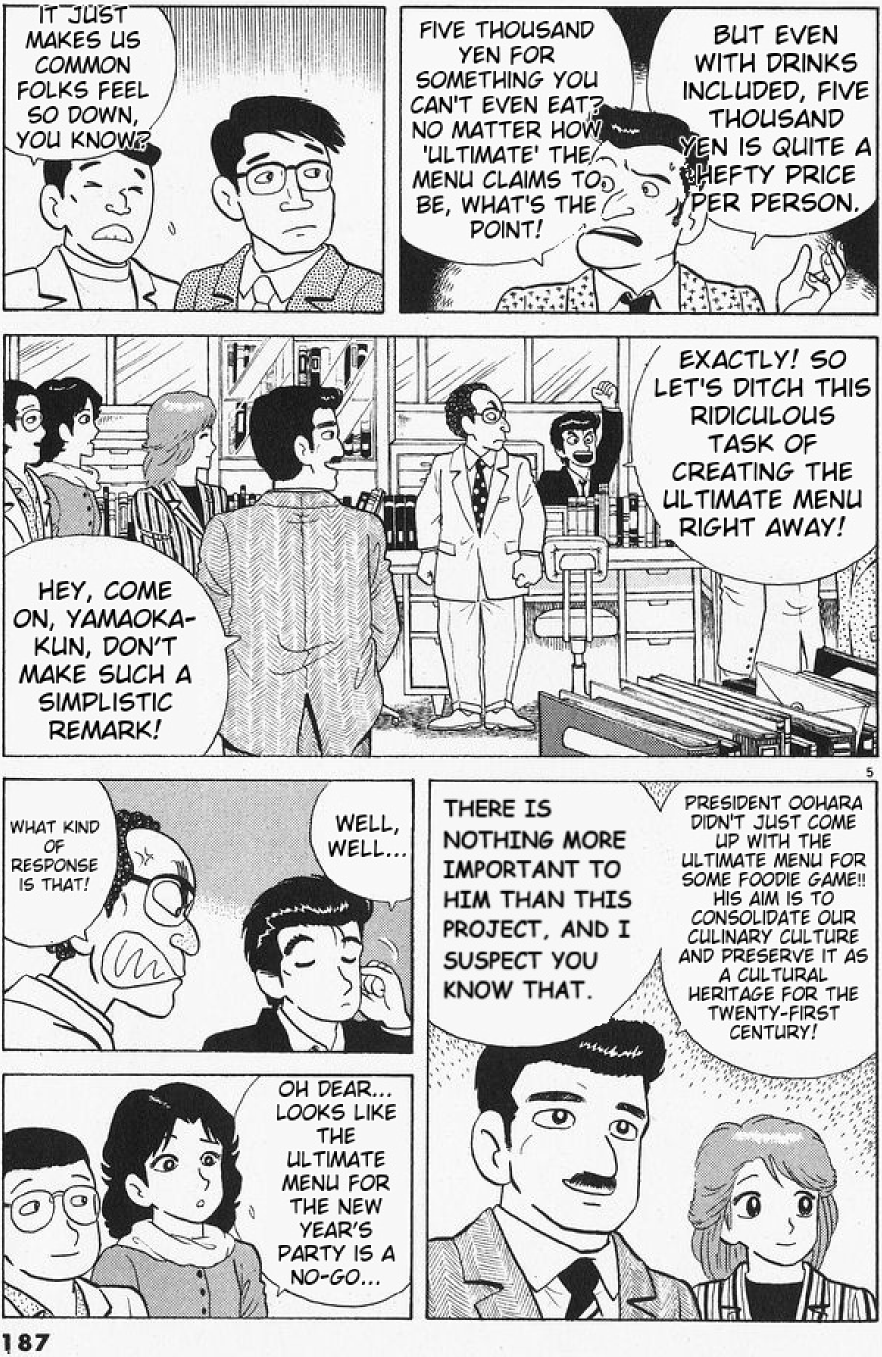

東西新聞社
THE ANNUAL CULTURAL CLUB NEW YEAR'S GATHERING IS SET TO TAKE PLACE NEXT FRIDAY...
YAMAOKA AND KURITA WILL ORGANIZE IT.
YES.
GOOD GRIEF,
JUST PLAYING AROUND WITH YEAR-END PARTIES AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS...
WOW, REALLY? DO YOU NOT LIKE IT?!
OH, WHAT A DREAM!! IF ONLY EVERY DAY COULD BE A YEAR-END PARTY OR A NEW YEAR CELEBRATION!
HEY, KURITA.
YOU'VE GOT SOME DISH CANDIDATES READY FOR THE ULTIMATE MENU, RIGHT?
WELL, UMM...

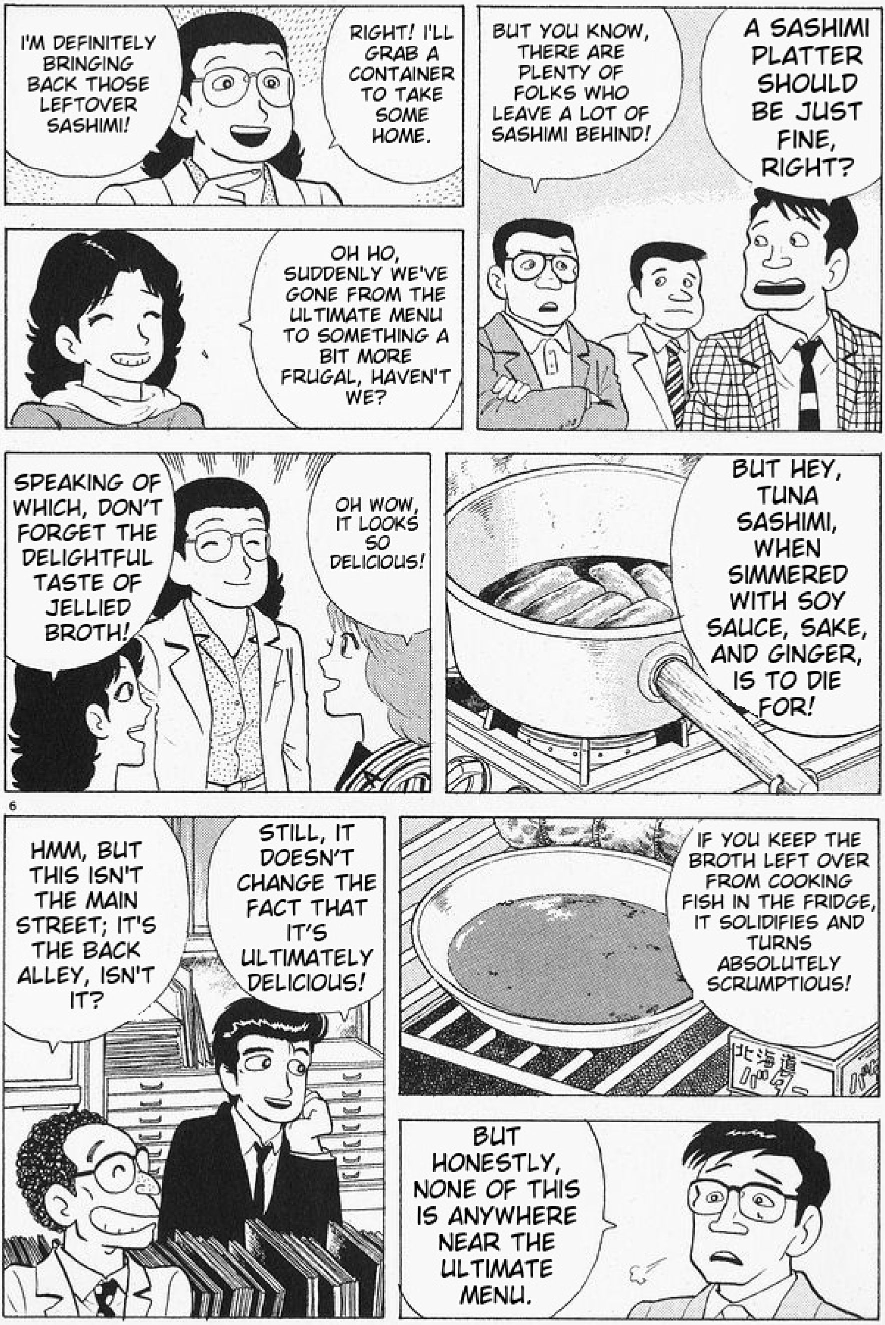
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


HOW ABOUT WE REVEAL SOME OF THOSE AT THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY?!
OH, THAT'S A FANTASTIC IDEA! SINCE YOU TWO ARE IN CHARGE, WHY NOT WHIP UP SOME DISHES FOR THE ULTIMATE MENU!
REALLY?
OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL!!
THAT'S A BRILLIANT IDEA!!
I REALLY WANT TO TASTE WHAT KIND OF DISHES MAKE IT ONTO THE ULTIMATE MENU!
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
OH?! LIKE WHAT KIND OF CREATIONS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?
THAT SOUNDS GOOD, CONSIDERING THE SEASON RIGHT NOW...
3
TOMII-SAN.
WHAT WAS THE BUDGET FOR THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY AGAIN?
WITH DRINKS INCLUDED, IT'S FIVE THOUSAND YEN PER PERSON.
IF WE INCLUDE DRINKS, THE FOOD BUDGET IS THREE THOUSAND YEN...
SO, WHAT WE CAN OFFER IS... HMM.....

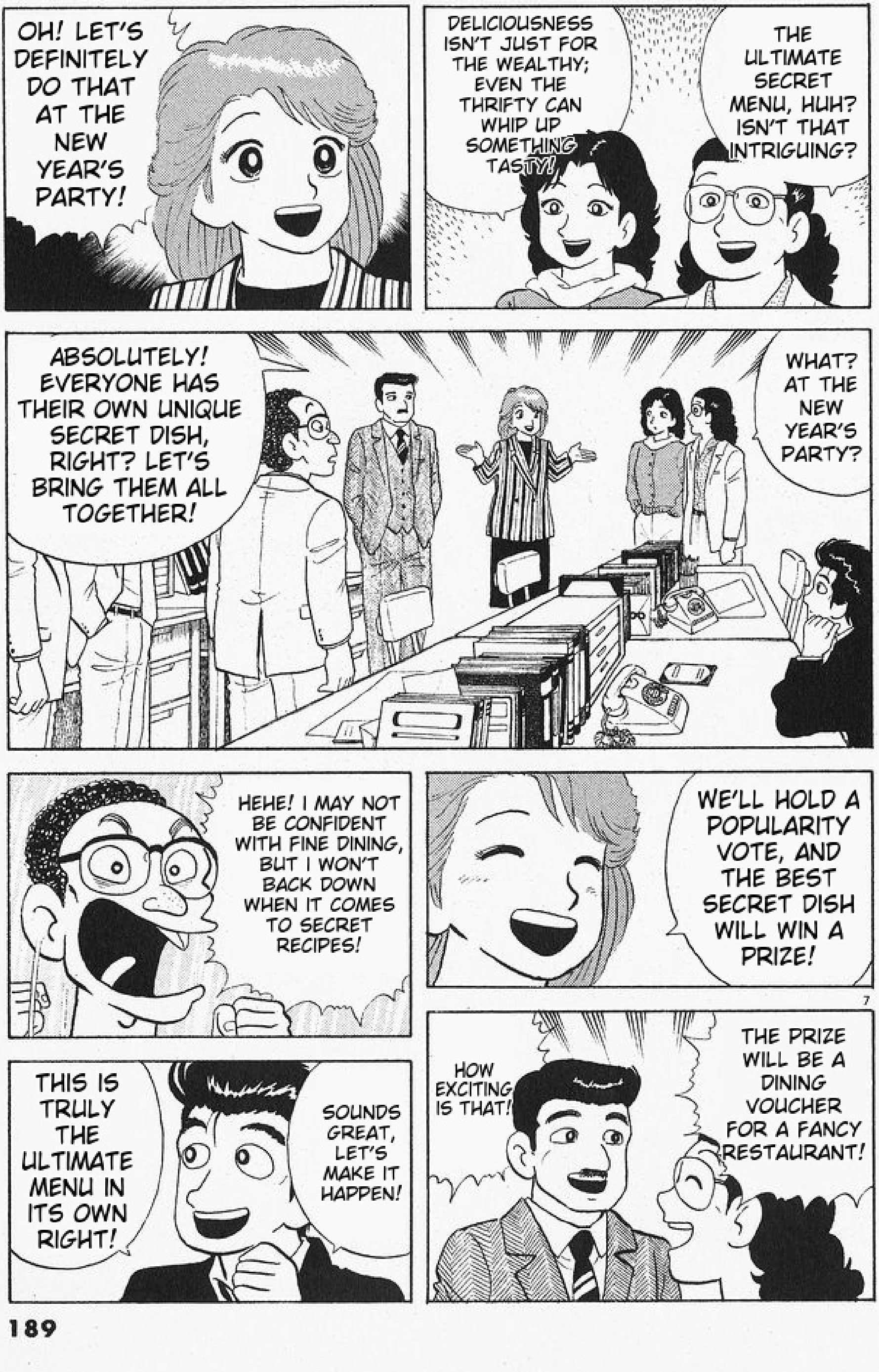

HEY, DON'T SAY SUCH GLOOMY THINGS!
I'D REALLY LOVE TO TRY FOIE GRAS, YOU KNOW...!
ISN'T PUFFERFISH OR SOFT-SHELLED TURTLE OFF THE TABLE?
HOW ABOUT ADDING SOME RAW LIVER FROM A TRIGGERFISH...?
I CAN MANAGE TO WHIP UP SOME STEAMED ANGLERFISH LIVER, THOUGH...
YOU CAN'T JUST STICK TO TWO DISHES AND CALL IT A DAY...
SO IN A WAY, CRAFTING THE ULTIMATE MENU IS ALMOST CRIMINAL!
ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE AIMING FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY!
DELICIOUS THINGS ARE ALWAYS EXPENSIVE!
WELL, I SUPPOSE YAMAOKA HAS A POINT...
4
JAPAN, IN PARTICULAR, IS JUST OUTRAGEOUS.
IT'S A FACT THAT DELICIOUS FOOD COMES WITH A HEFTY PRICE TAG.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, I'M TELLING YOU!
HMPH! AS AN EXCUSE FOR HOW LITTLE PROGRESS YOU'VE MADE ON THE ULTIMATE MENU, THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE!

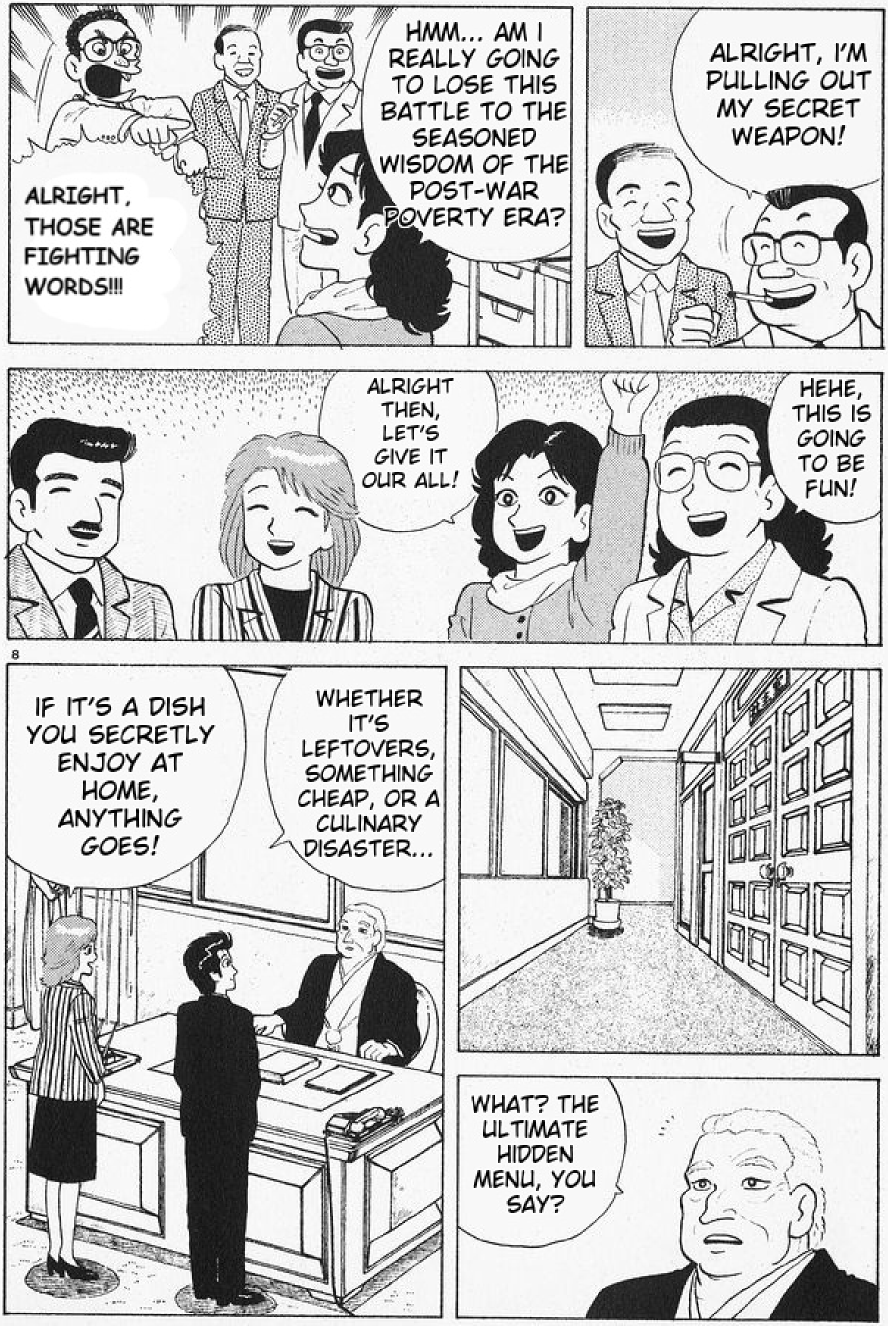
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


BUT EVEN WITH DRINKS INCLUDED, FIVE THOUSAND YEN IS QUITE A HEFTY PRICE PER PERSON.
FIVE THOUSAND YEN FOR SOMETHING YOU CAN'T EVEN EAT? NO MATTER HOW 'ULTIMATE' THE MENU CLAIMS TO BE, WHAT'S THE POINT!
IT JUST MAKES US COMMON FOLKS FEEL SO DOWN, YOU KNOW?
EXACTLY! SO LET'S DITCH THIS RIDICULOUS TASK OF CREATING THE ULTIMATE MENU RIGHT AWAY!
HEY, COME ON, YAMAOKA-KUN, DON'T MAKE SUCH A SIMPLISTIC REMARK!
5
PRESIDENT OOHARA DIDN'T JUST COME UP WITH THE ULTIMATE MENU FOR SOME FOODIE GAME!! HIS AIM IS TO CONSOLIDATE OUR CULINARY CULTURE AND PRESERVE IT AS A CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY!
THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN THIS PROJECT. AND I SUSPECT YOU KNOW THAT.
WELL, WELL...
WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE IS THAT!
OH DEAR... LOOKS LIKE THE ULTIMATE MENU FOR THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY IS A NO-GO...

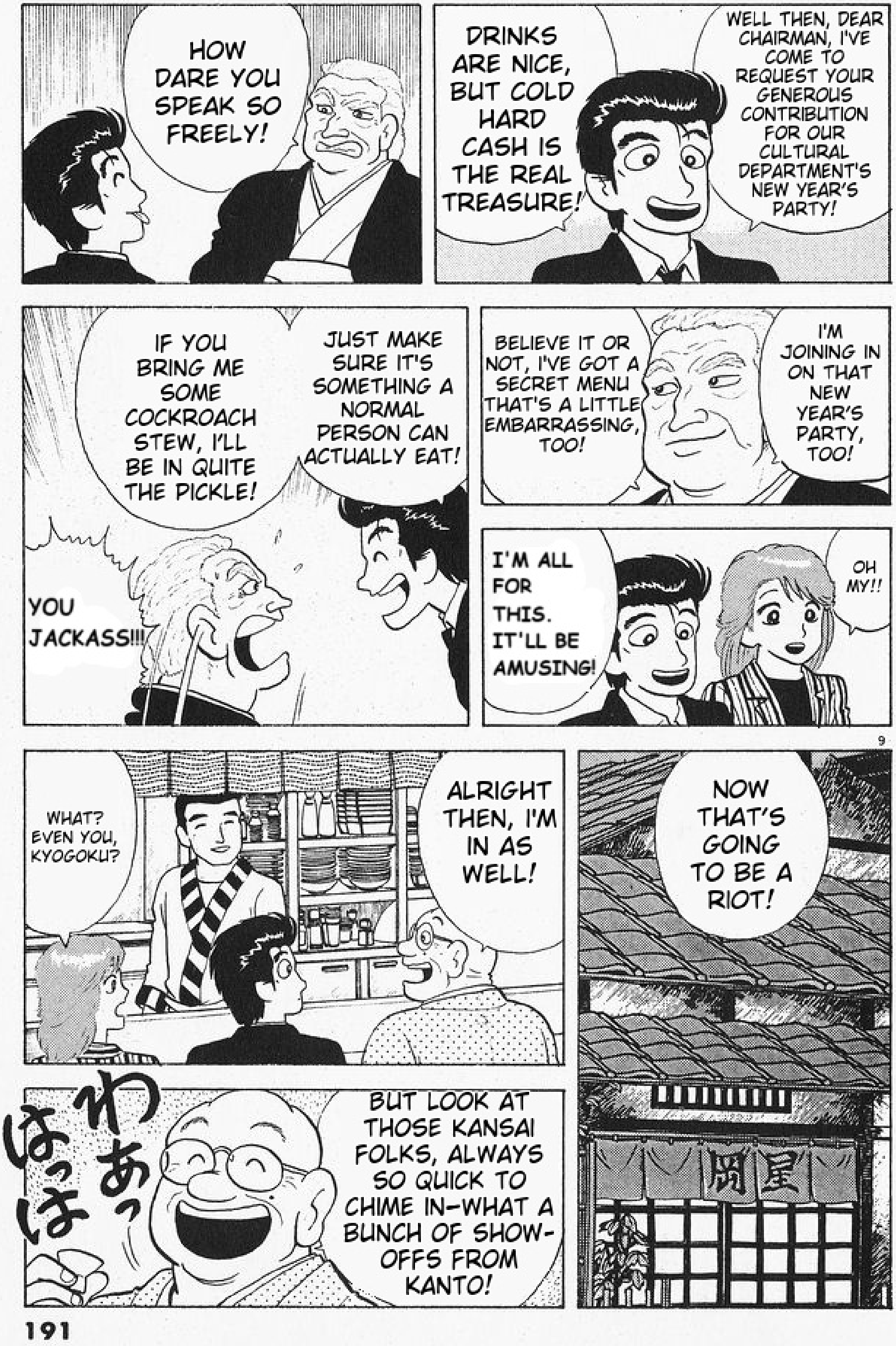

A SASHIMI PLATTER SHOULD BE JUST FINE, RIGHT?
BUT YOU KNOW, THERE ARE PLENTY OF FOLKS WHO LEAVE A LOT OF SASHIMI BEHIND!
RIGHT! I'LL GRAB A CONTAINER TO TAKE SOME HOME.
I'M DEFINITELY BRINGING BACK THOSE LEFTOVER SASHIMI!
OH HO, SUDDENLY WE'VE GONE FROM THE ULTIMATE MENU TO SOMETHING A BIT MORE FRUGAL, HAVEN'T WE?
BUT HEY, TUNA SASHIMI, WHEN SIMMERED WITH SOY SAUCE, SAKE, AND GINGER, IS TO DIE FOR!
OH WOW, IT LOOKS SO DELICIOUS!
SPEAKING OF WHICH, DON'T FORGET THE DELIGHTFUL TASTE OF JELLIED BROTH!
IF YOU KEEP THE BROTH LEFT OVER FROM COOKING FISH IN THE FRIDGE, IT SOLIDIFIES AND TURNS ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS!
北海道バター
STILL, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S ULTIMATELY DELICIOUS!
HMM, BUT THIS ISN'T THE MAIN STREET; IT'S THE BACK ALLEY, ISN'T IT?
BUT HONESTLY, NONE OF THIS IS ANYWHERE NEAR THE ULTIMATE MENU.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


THE ULTIMATE SECRET MENU, HUH? ISN'T THAT INTRIGUING?
DELICIOUSNESS ISN'T JUST FOR THE WEALTHY; EVEN THE THRIFTY CAN WHIP UP SOMETHING TASTY!
OH! LET'S DEFINITELY DO THAT AT THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY!
WHAT? AT THE NEW YEAR'S PARTY?
ABSOLUTELY! EVERYONE HAS THEIR OWN UNIQUE SECRET DISH, RIGHT? LET'S BRING THEM ALL TOGETHER!
WE'LL HOLD A POPULARITY VOTE, AND THE BEST SECRET DISH WILL WIN A PRIZE!
HEHE! I MAY NOT BE CONFIDENT WITH FINE DINING, BUT I WON'T BACK DOWN WHEN IT COMES TO SECRET RECIPES!
7
THE PRIZE WILL BE A DINING VOUCHER FOR A FANCY RESTAURANT!
HOW EXCITING IS THAT!
SOUNDS GREAT, LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!
THIS IS TRULY THE ULTIMATE MENU IN ITS OWN RIGHT!


ALRIGHT, I'M PULLING OUT MY SECRET WEAPON!
HMM... AM I REALLY GOING TO LOSE THIS BATTLE TO THE SEASONED WISDOM OF THE POST-WAR POVERTY ERA?
ALRIGHT, THOSE ARE FIGHTING WORDS!!!
HEHE, THIS IS GOING TO BE FUN!
ALRIGHT THEN, LET'S GIVE IT OUR ALL!
8
WHAT? THE ULTIMATE HIDDEN MENU, YOU SAY?
WHETHER IT'S LEFTOVERS, SOMETHING CHEAP, OR A CULINARY DISASTER...
IF IT'S A DISH YOU SECRETLY ENJOY AT HOME, ANYTHING GOES!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


WELL THEN, DEAR CHAIRMAN, I'VE COME TO REQUEST YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION FOR OUR CULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S NEW YEAR'S PARTY!
DRINKS ARE NICE, BUT COLD HARD CASH IS THE REAL TREASURE!
HOW DARE YOU SPEAK SO FREELY!
I'M JOINING IN ON THAT NEW YEAR'S PARTY, TOO!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'VE GOT A SECRET MENU THAT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING, TOO!
OH MY!!
I'M ALL FOR THIS. IT'LL BE AMUSING!
JUST MAKE SURE IT'S SOMETHING A NORMAL PERSON CAN ACTUALLY EAT!
IF YOU BRING ME SOME COCKROACH STEW, I'LL BE IN QUITE THE PICKLE!
YOU JACKASS!!!
NOW THAT'S GOING TO BE A RIOT!
ALRIGHT THEN, I'M IN AS WELL!
WHAT? EVEN YOU, KYOGOKU?
わあっ
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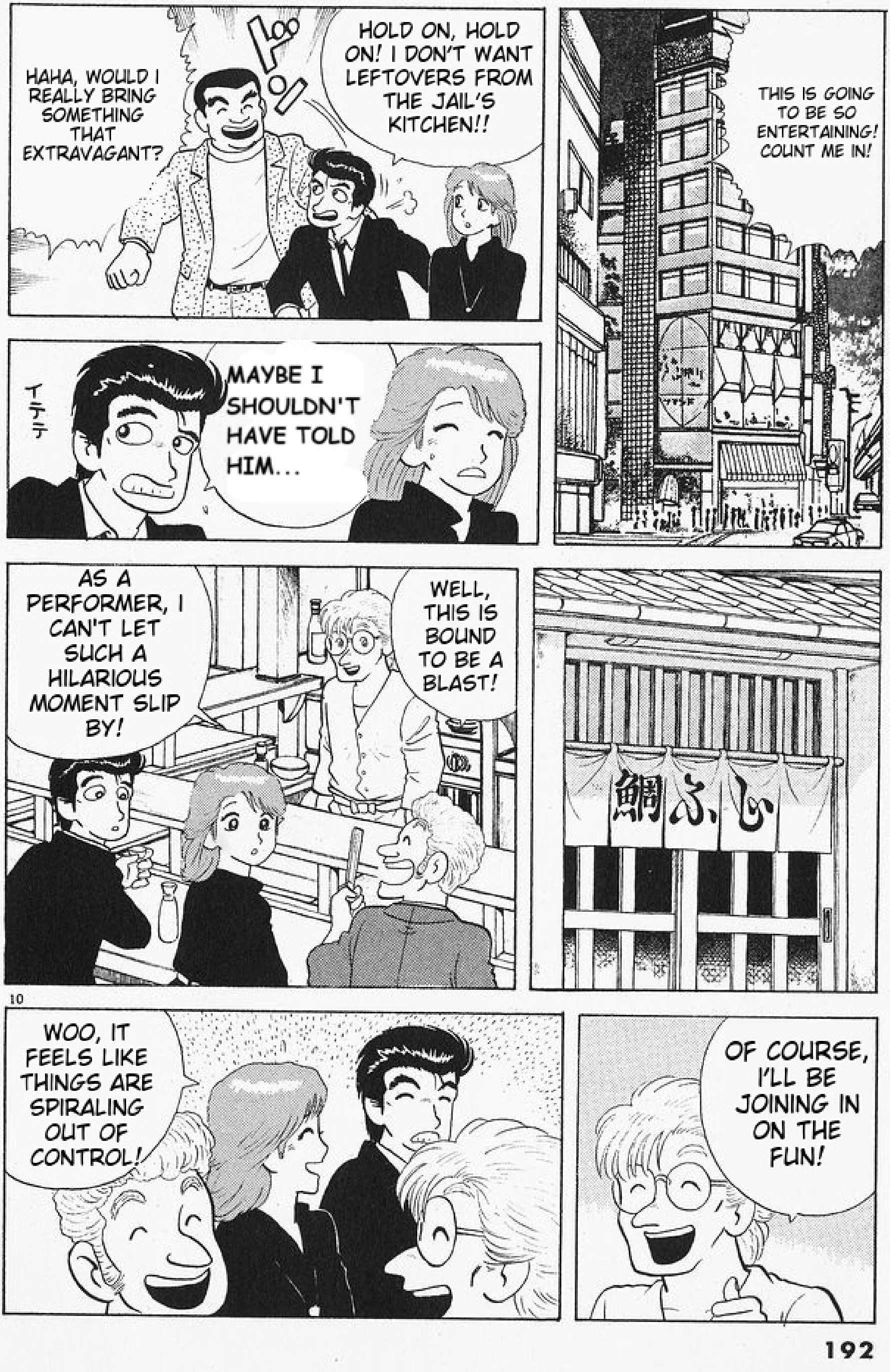
BUT LOOK AT THOSE KANSAI FOLKS, ALWAYS SO QUICK TO CHIME IN–WHAT A BUNCH OF SHOW-OFFS FROM KANTO!


THIS IS GOING TO BE SO ENTERTAINING! COUNT ME IN!
HOLD ON, HOLD ON! I DON'T WANT LEFTOVERS FROM THE JAIL'S KITCHEN!!
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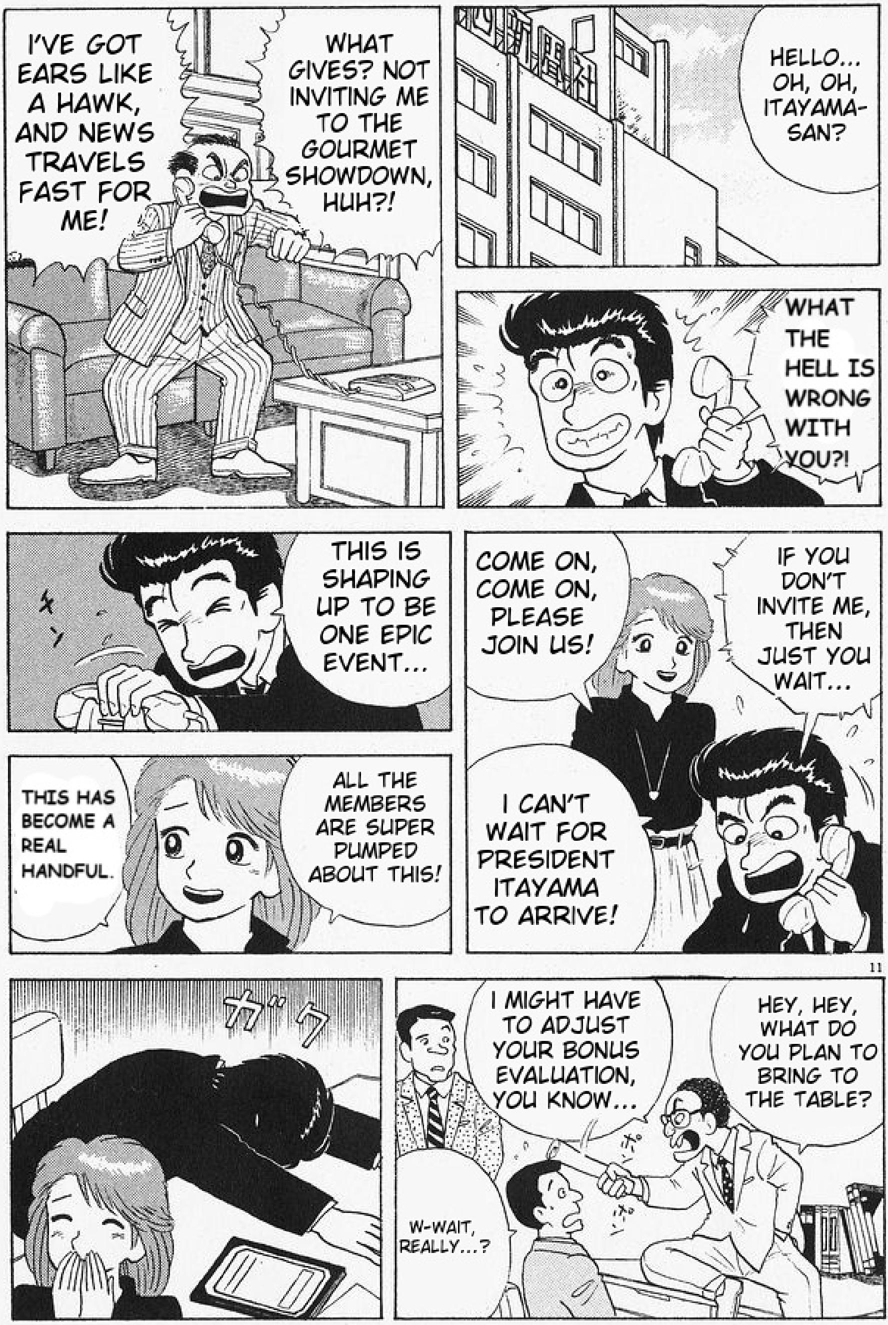
HAHA, WOULD I REALLY BRING SOMETHING THAT EXTRAVAGANT?
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HIM...
イテテ
鯛ふじ
WELL, THIS IS BOUND TO BE A BLAST!
AS A PERFORMER, I CAN'T LET SUCH A HILARIOUS MOMENT SLIP BY!
10
OF COURSE, I'LL BE JOINING IN ON THE FUN!
WOO, IT FEELS LIKE THINGS ARE SPIRALING OUT OF CONTROL!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


HELLO... OH, OH, ITAYAMA-SAN?
WHAT GIVES? NOT INVITING ME TO THE GOURMET SHOWDOWN, HUH?!
I'VE GOT EARS LIKE A HAWK, AND NEWS TRAVELS FAST FOR ME!
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
IF YOU DON'T INVITE ME, THEN JUST YOU WAIT...
COME ON, COME ON, PLEASE JOIN US!
I CAN'T WAIT FOR PRESIDENT ITAYAMA TO ARRIVE!
THIS IS SHAPING UP TO BE ONE EPIC EVENT...
ALL THE MEMBERS ARE SUPER PUMPED ABOUT THIS!
THIS HAS BECOME A REAL HANDFUL.
HEY, HEY, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO BRING TO THE TABLE?
I MIGHT HAVE TO ADJUST YOUR BONUS EVALUATION, YOU KNOW...
ポン
W-WAIT, REALLY...?
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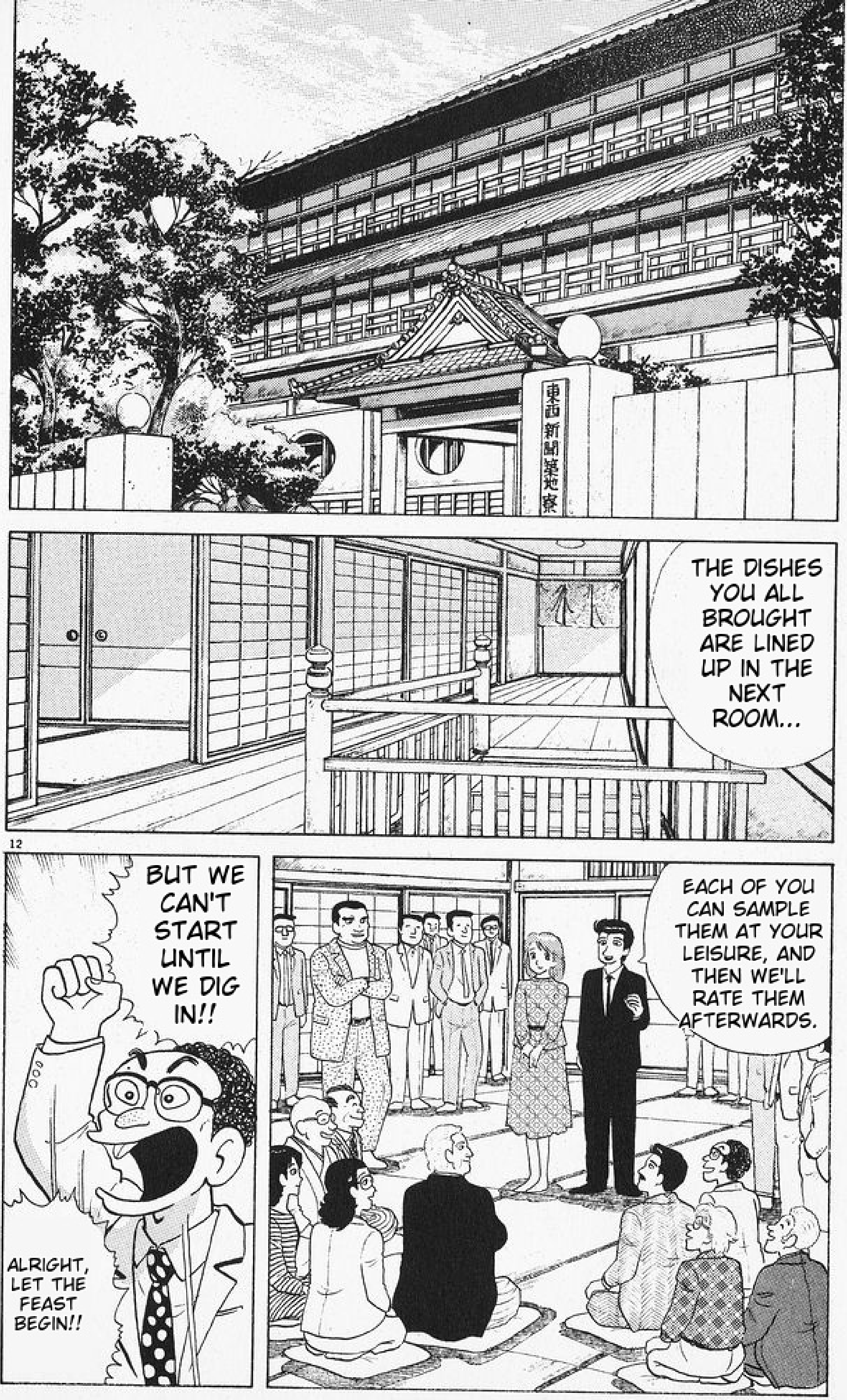
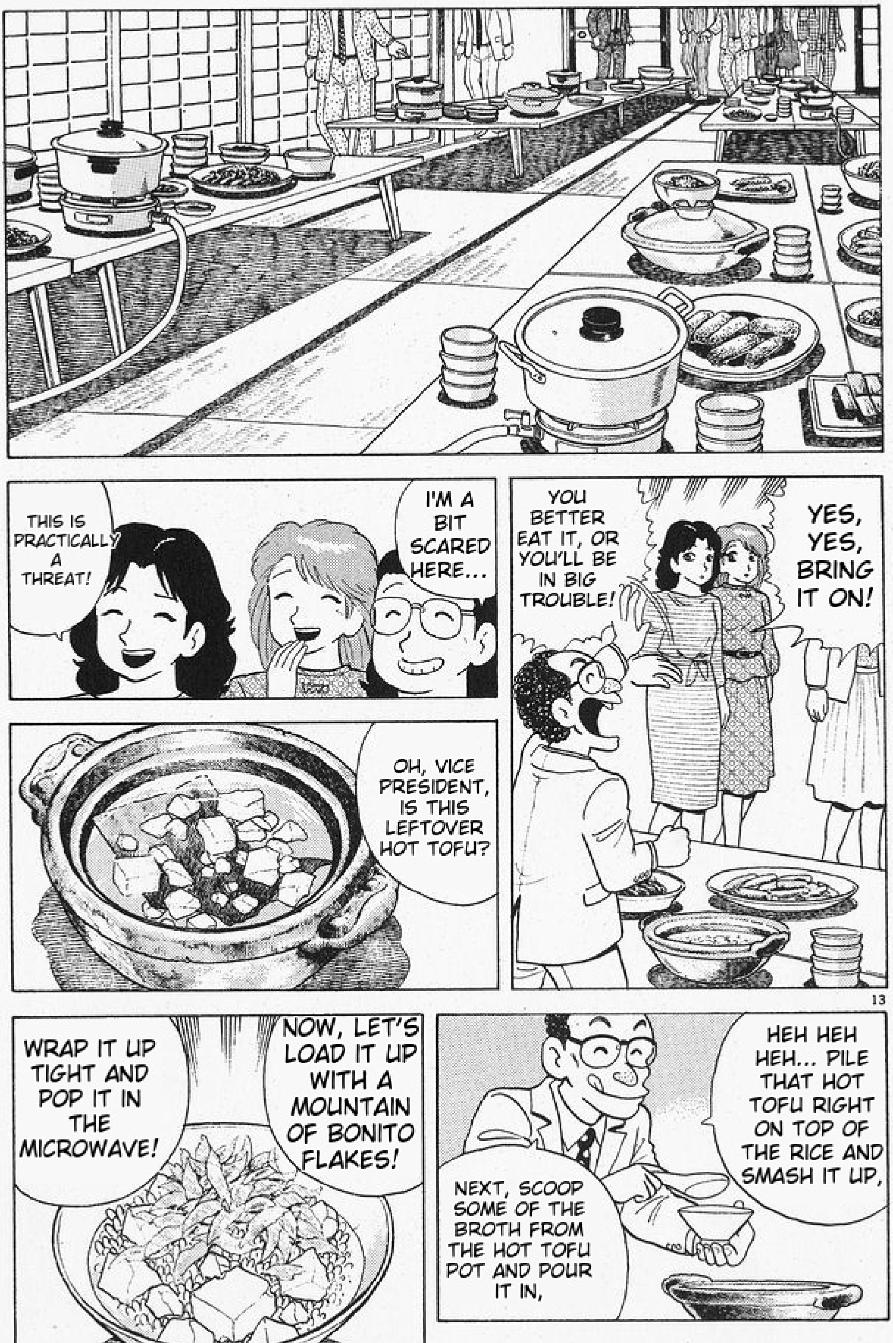
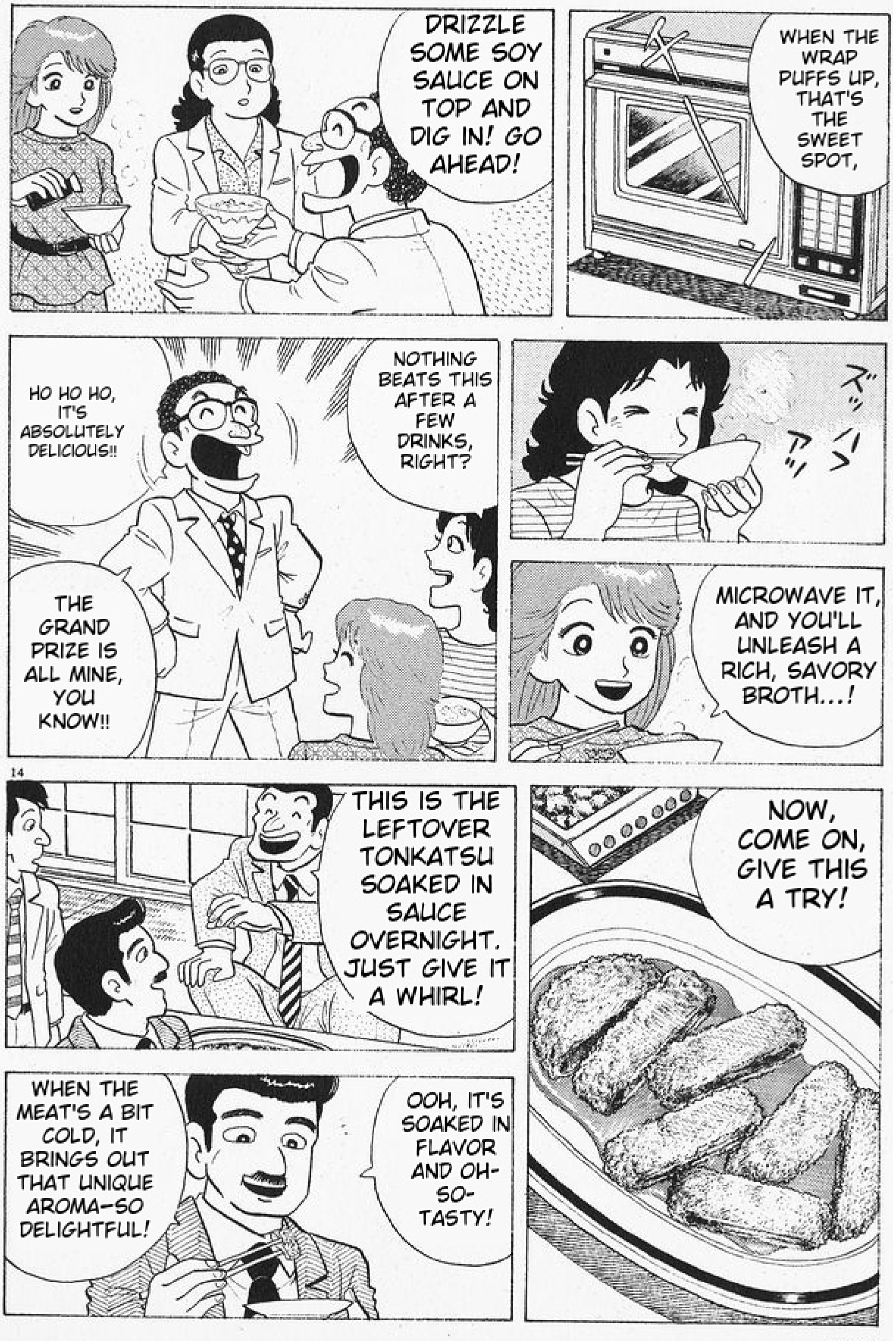
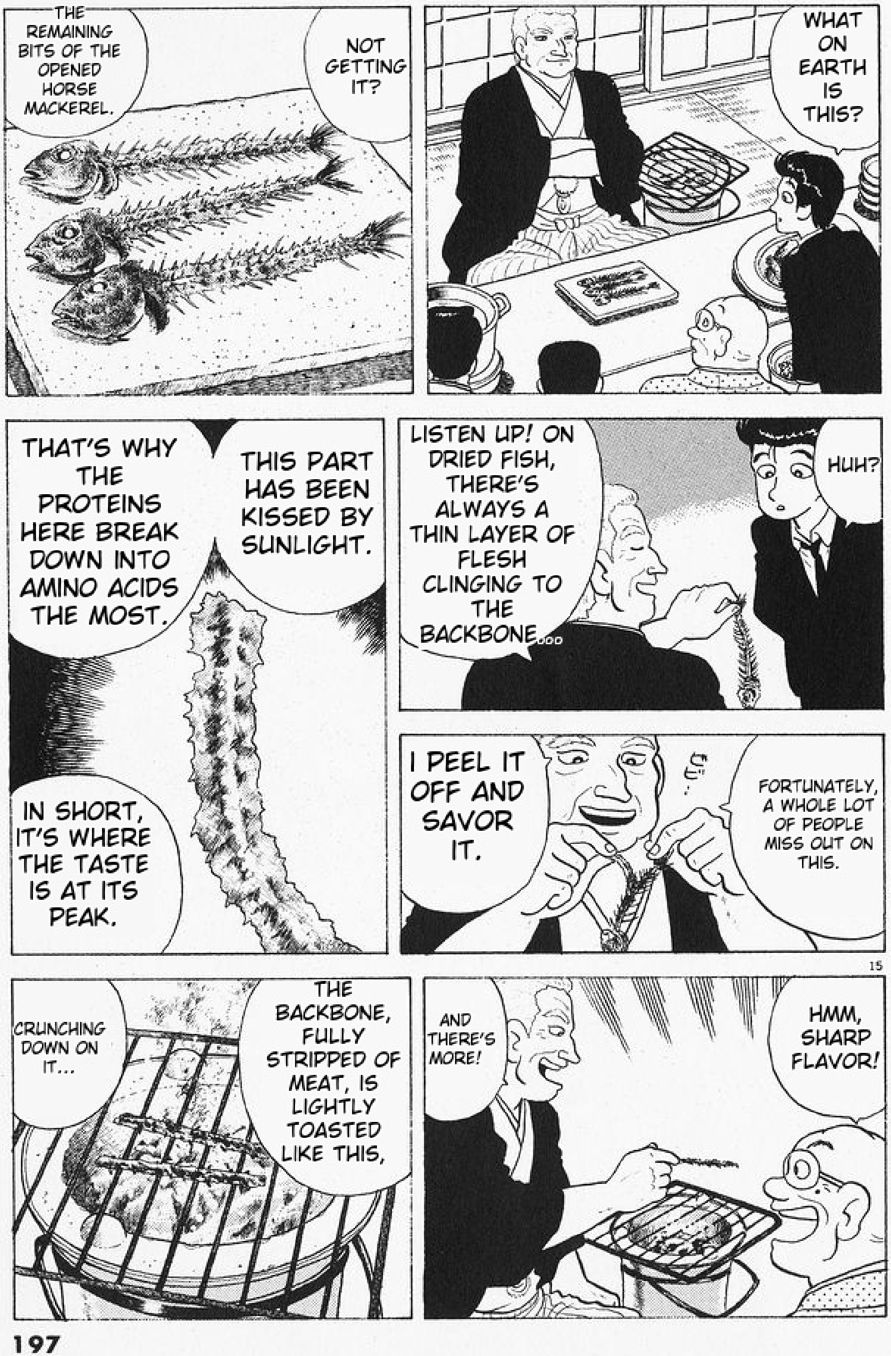

東西新聞築地寮
THE DISHES YOU ALL BROUGHT ARE LINED UP IN THE NEXT ROOM...
EACH OF YOU CAN SAMPLE THEM AT YOUR LEISURE, AND THEN WE'LL RATE THEM AFTERWARDS.
BUT WE CAN'T START UNTIL WE DIG IN!!
ALRIGHT, LET THE FEAST BEGIN!!

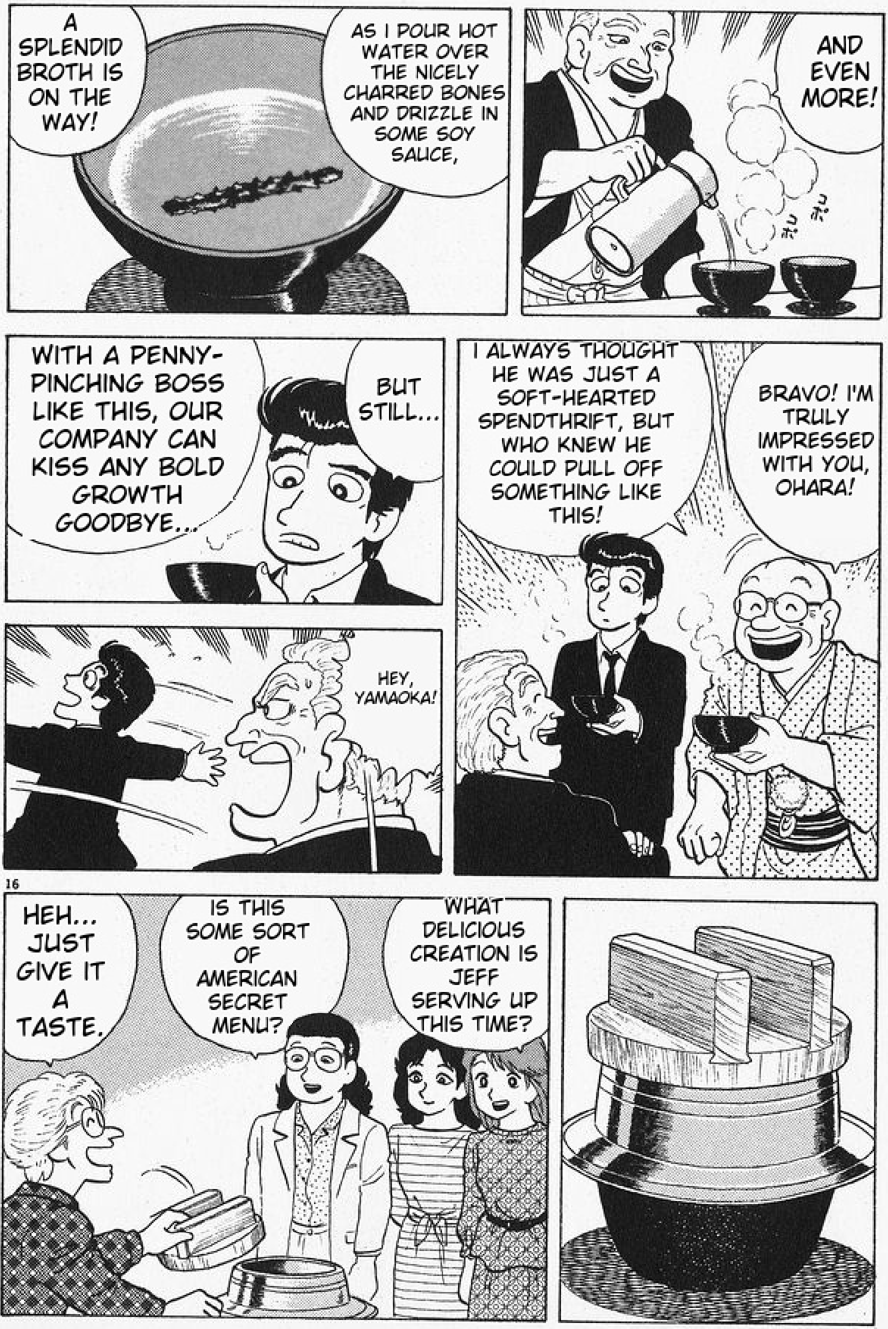
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


YOU BETTER EAT IT, OR YOU'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
YES, YES, BRING IT ON!
I'M A BIT SCARED HERE...
THIS IS PRACTICALLY A THREAT!
OH, VICE PRESIDENT, IS THIS LEFTOVER HOT TOFU?
HEH HEH HEH... PILE THAT HOT TOFU RIGHT ON TOP OF THE RICE AND SMASH IT UP,
NEXT, SCOOP SOME OF THE BROTH FROM THE HOT TOFU POT AND POUR IT IN,
NOW, LET'S LOAD IT UP WITH A MOUNTAIN OF BONITO FLAKES!
WRAP IT UP TIGHT AND POP IT IN THE MICROWAVE!

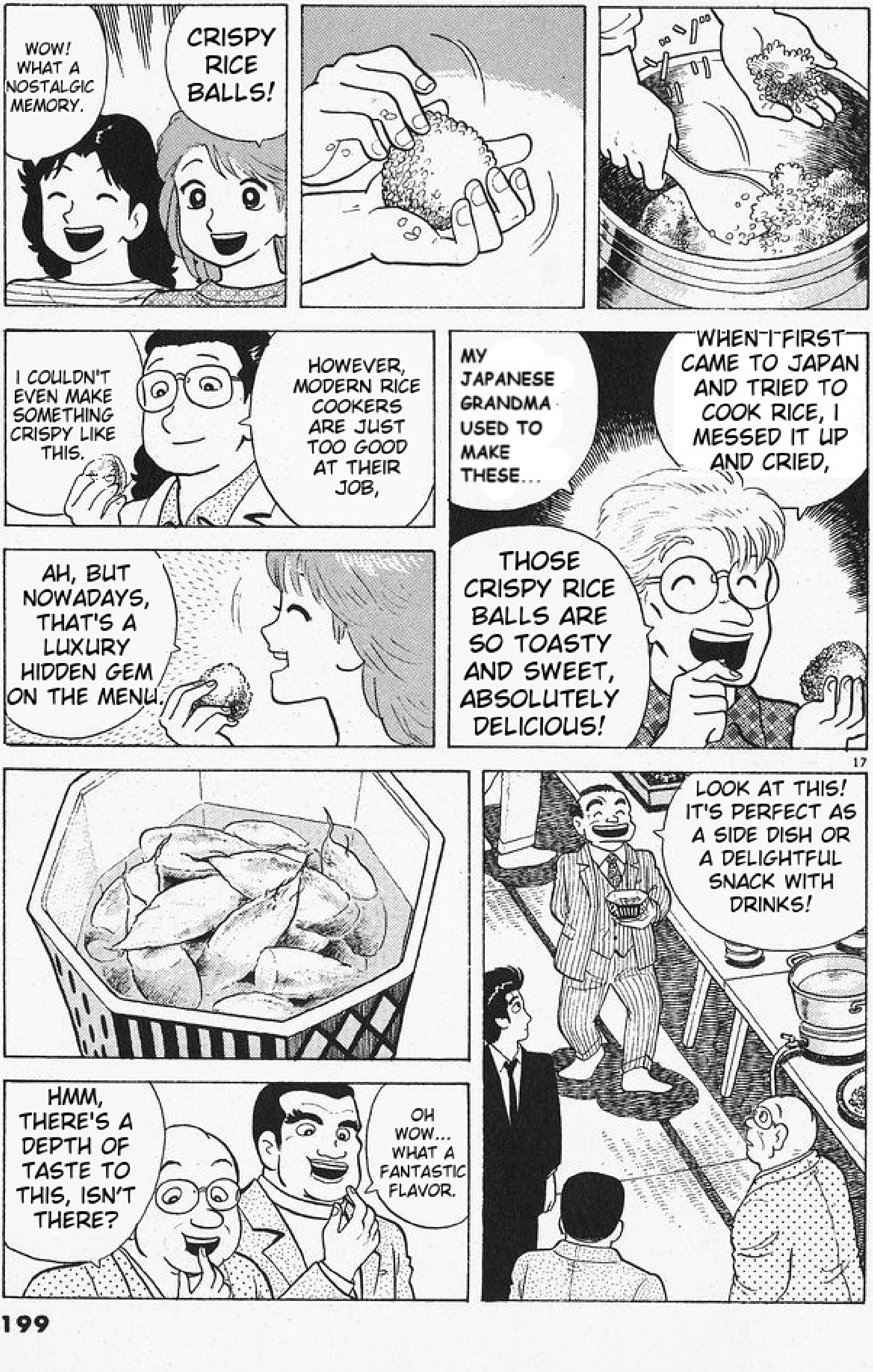

WHEN THE WRAP PUFFS UP, THAT'S THE SWEET SPOT,
DRIZZLE SOME SOY SAUCE ON TOP AND DIG IN! GO AHEAD!
ズッ
アッ
MICROWAVE IT, AND YOU'LL UNLEASH A RICH, SAVORY BROTH...!
NOTHING BEATS THIS AFTER A FEW DRINKS, RIGHT?
HO HO HO, IT'S ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!!
THE GRAND PRIZE IS ALL MINE, YOU KNOW!!
14
NOW, COME ON, GIVE THIS A TRY!
THIS IS THE LEFTOVER TONKATSU SOAKED IN SAUCE OVERNIGHT. JUST GIVE IT A WHIRL!
OOH, IT'S SOAKED IN FLAVOR AND OH-SO-TASTY!
WHEN THE MEAT'S A BIT COLD, IT BRINGS OUT THAT UNIQUE AROMA–SO DELIGHTFUL!

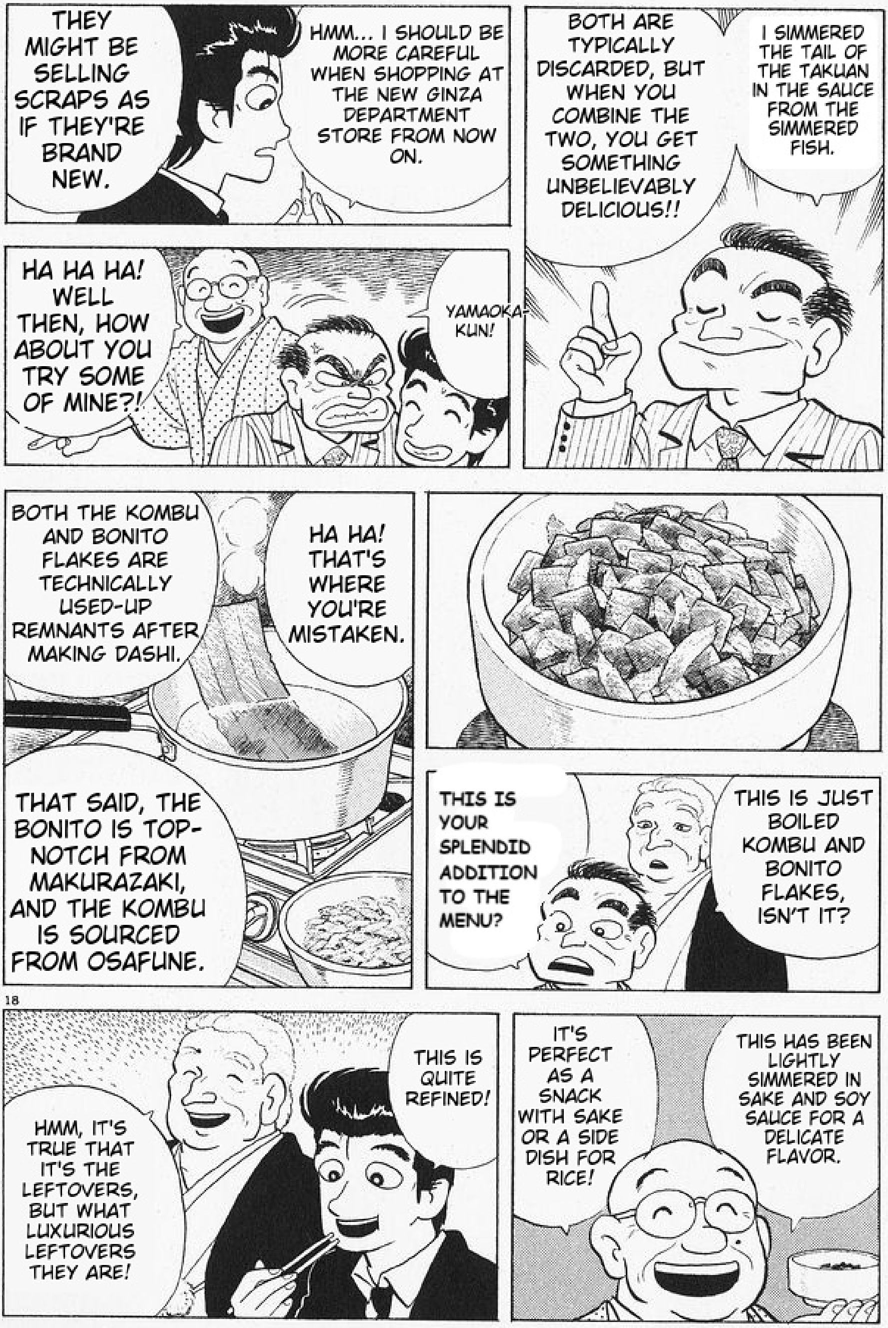
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?
NOT GETTING IT?
THE REMAINING BITS OF THE OPENED HORSE MACKEREL.
HUH?
LISTEN UP! ON DRIED FISH, THERE'S ALWAYS A THIN LAYER OF FLESH CLINGING TO THE BACKBONE...
FORTUNATELY, A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE MISS OUT ON THIS.
I PEEL IT OFF AND SAVOR IT.
THIS PART HAS BEEN KISSED BY SUNLIGHT.
THAT'S WHY THE PROTEINS HERE BREAK DOWN INTO AMINO ACIDS THE MOST.
IN SHORT, IT'S WHERE THE TASTE IS AT ITS PEAK.
HMM, SHARP FLAVOR!
AND THERE'S MORE!
THE BACKBONE, FULLY STRIPPED OF MEAT, IS LIGHTLY TOASTED LIKE THIS,
CRUNCHING DOWN ON IT...

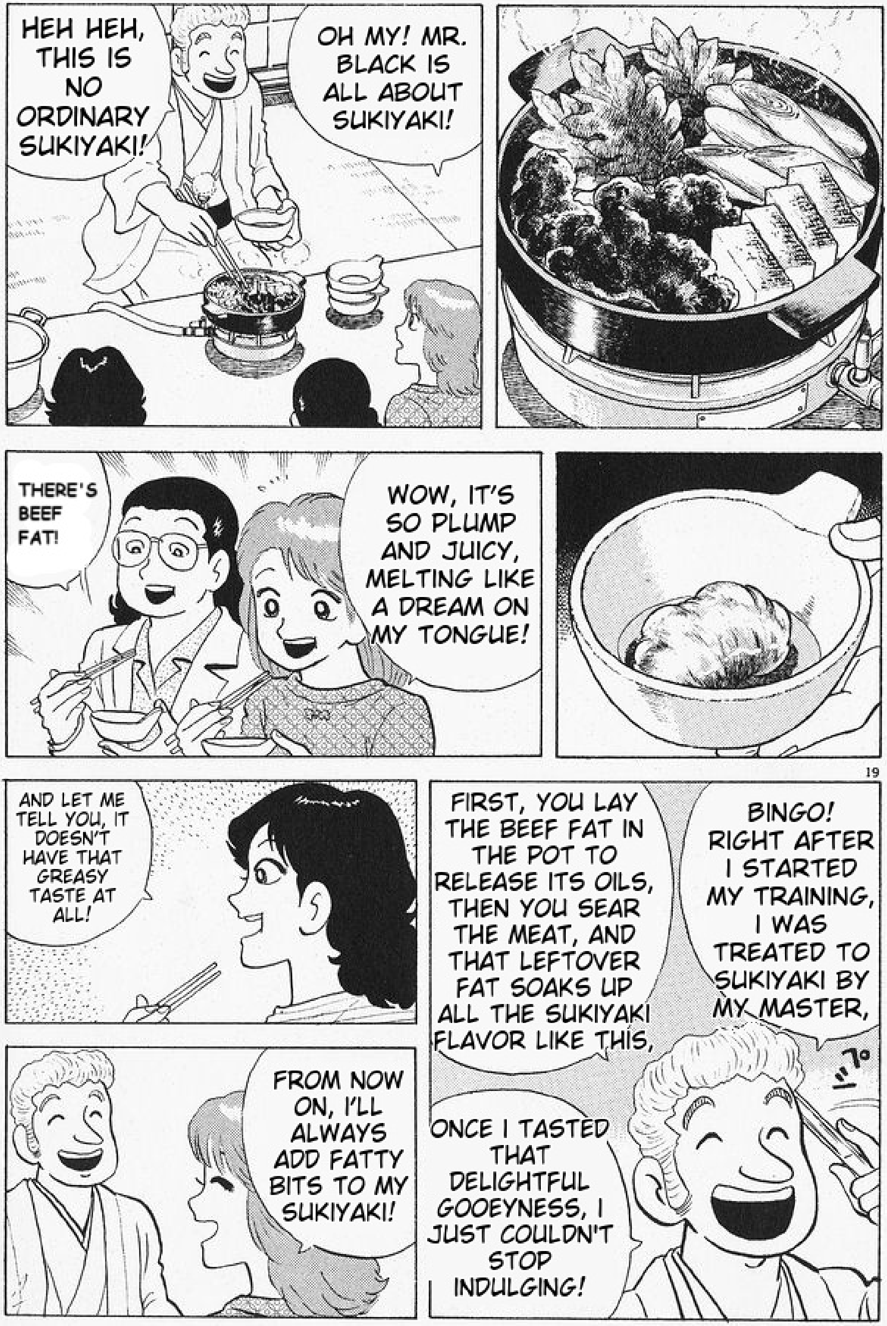

AND EVEN MORE!
こぽ こぽ
AS I POUR HOT WATER OVER THE NICELY CHARRED BONES AND DRIZZLE IN SOME SOY SAUCE,
A SPLENDID BROTH IS ON THE WAY!
BRAVO! I'M TRULY IMPRESSED WITH YOU, OHARA!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A SOFT-HEARTED SPENDTHRIFT, BUT WHO KNEW HE COULD PULL OFF SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
BUT STILL...
WITH A PENNY-PINCHING BOSS LIKE THIS, OUR COMPANY CAN KISS ANY BOLD GROWTH GOODBYE...
HEY, YAMAOKA!
WHAT DELICIOUS CREATION IS JEFF SERVING UP THIS TIME?
IS THIS SOME SORT OF AMERICAN SECRET MENU?
HEH... JUST GIVE IT A TASTE.

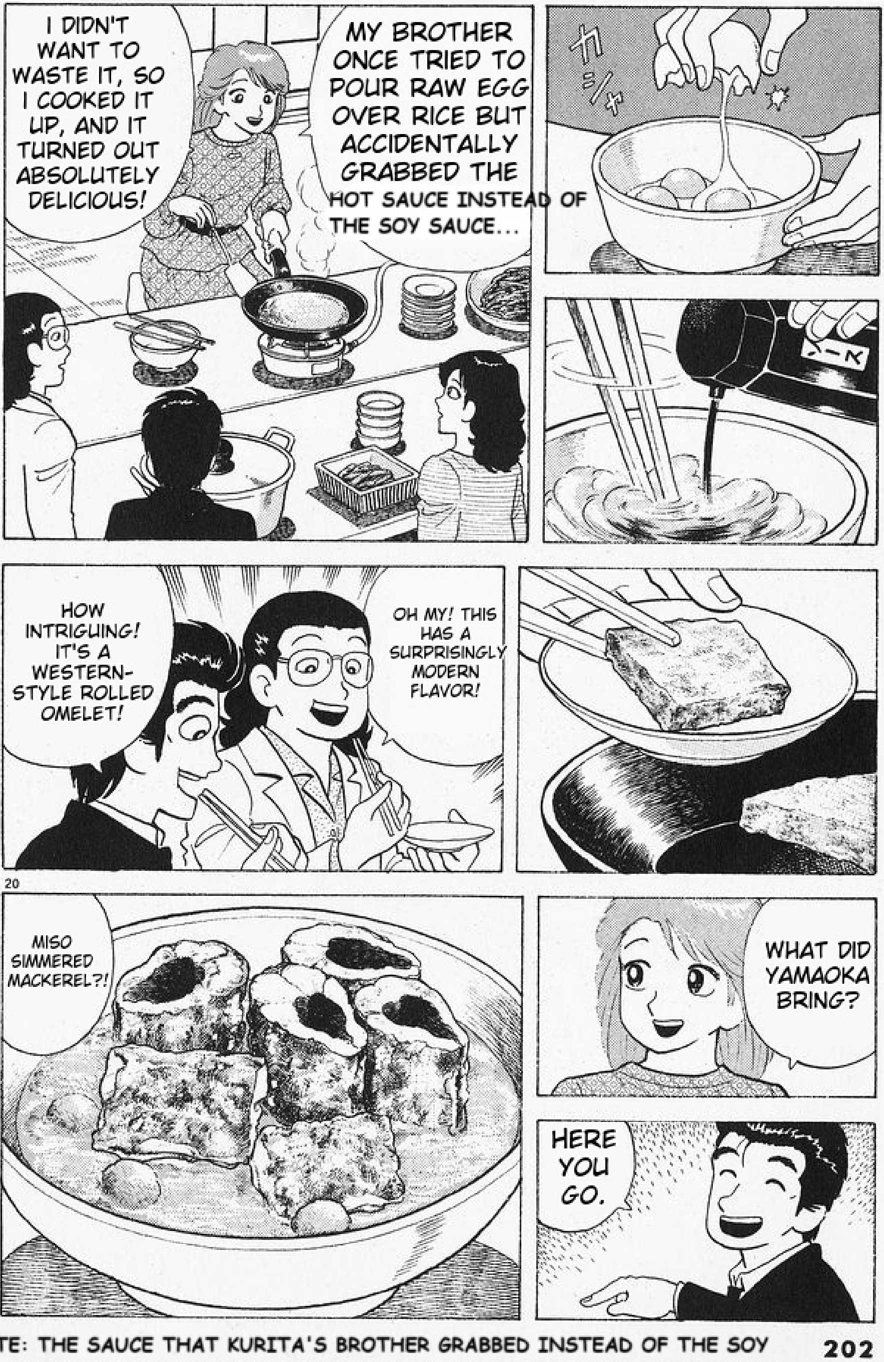
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


CRISPY RICE BALLS!
WOW! WHAT A NOSTALGIC MEMORY.
WHEN I FIRST CAME TO JAPAN AND TRIED TO COOK RICE, I MESSED IT UP AND CRIED,
MY JAPANESE GRANDMA USED TO MAKE THESE...
THOSE CRISPY RICE BALLS ARE SO TOASTY AND SWEET, ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!
HOWEVER, MODERN RICE COOKERS ARE JUST TOO GOOD AT THEIR JOB,
I COULDN'T EVEN MAKE SOMETHING CRISPY LIKE THIS.
AH, BUT NOWADAYS, THAT'S A LUXURY HIDDEN GEM ON THE MENU.
17
LOOK AT THIS! IT'S PERFECT AS A SIDE DISH OR A DELIGHTFUL SNACK WITH DRINKS!
OH WOW... WHAT A FANTASTIC FLAVOR.
HMM, THERE'S A DEPTH OF TASTE TO THIS, ISN'T THERE?


I SIMMERED THE TAIL OF THE TAKUAN IN THE SAUCE FROM THE SIMMERED FISH.
BOTH ARE TYPICALLY DISCARDED, BUT WHEN YOU COMBINE THE TWO, YOU GET SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLY DELICIOUS!!
HMM... I SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WHEN SHOPPING AT THE NEW GINZA DEPARTMENT STORE FROM NOW ON.
THEY MIGHT BE SELLING SCRAPS AS IF THEY'RE BRAND NEW.
YAMAOKA-KUN!
HA HA HA! WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT YOU TRY SOME OF MINE?!
THIS IS JUST BOILED KOMBU AND BONITO FLAKES, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS YOUR SPLENDID ADDITION TO THE MENU?
HA HA! THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE MISTAKEN.
BOTH THE KOMBU AND BONITO FLAKES ARE TECHNICALLY USED-UP REMNANTS AFTER MAKING DASHI.
THAT SAID, THE BONITO IS TOP-NOTCH FROM MAKURAZAKI, AND THE KOMBU IS SOURCED FROM OSAFUNE.
THIS HAS BEEN LIGHTLY SIMMERED IN SAKE AND SOY SAUCE FOR A DELICATE FLAVOR.
IT'S PERFECT AS A SNACK WITH SAKE OR A SIDE DISH FOR RICE!
THIS IS QUITE REFINED!
HMM, IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S THE LEFTOVERS, BUT WHAT LUXURIOUS LEFTOVERS THEY ARE!

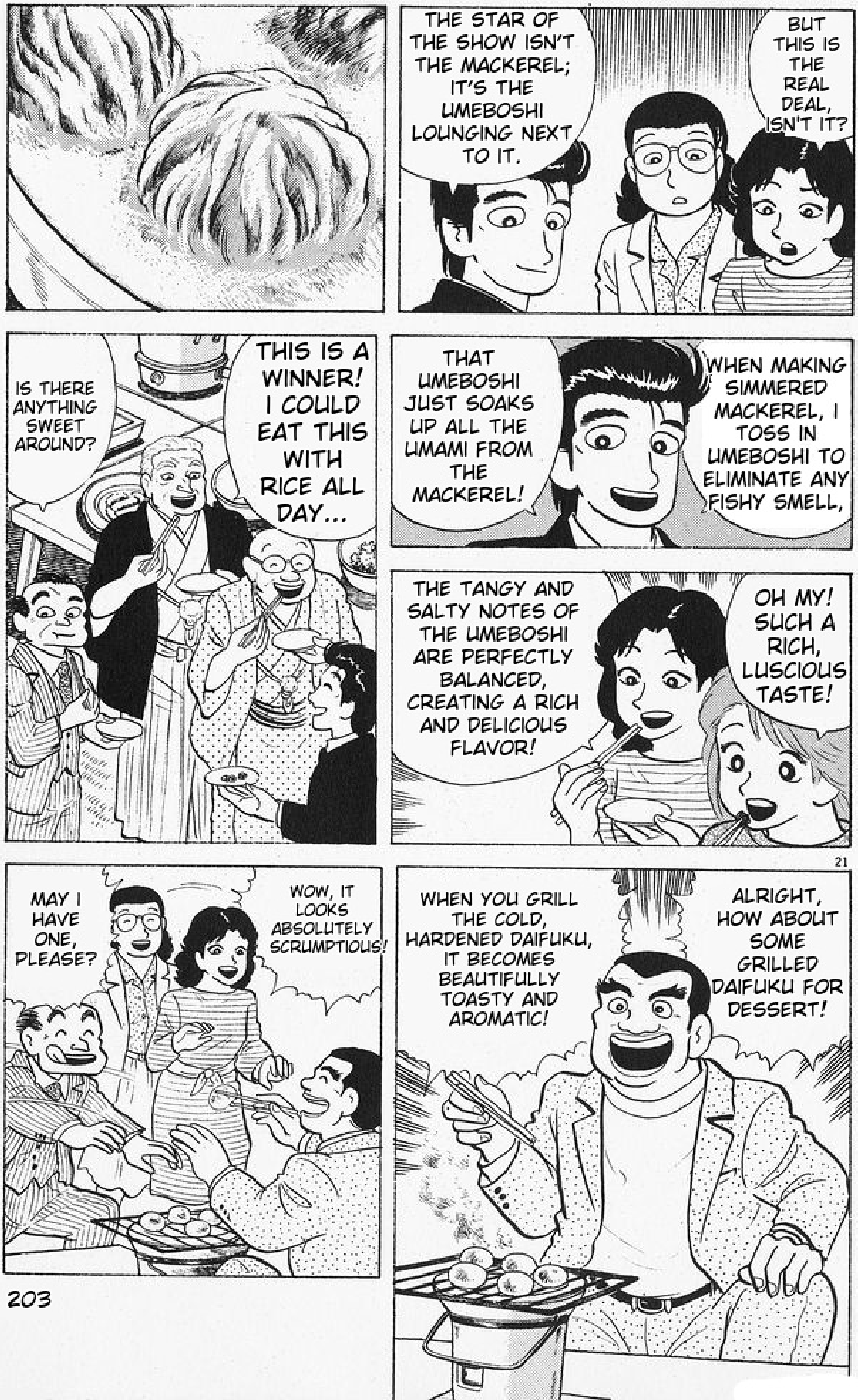
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!

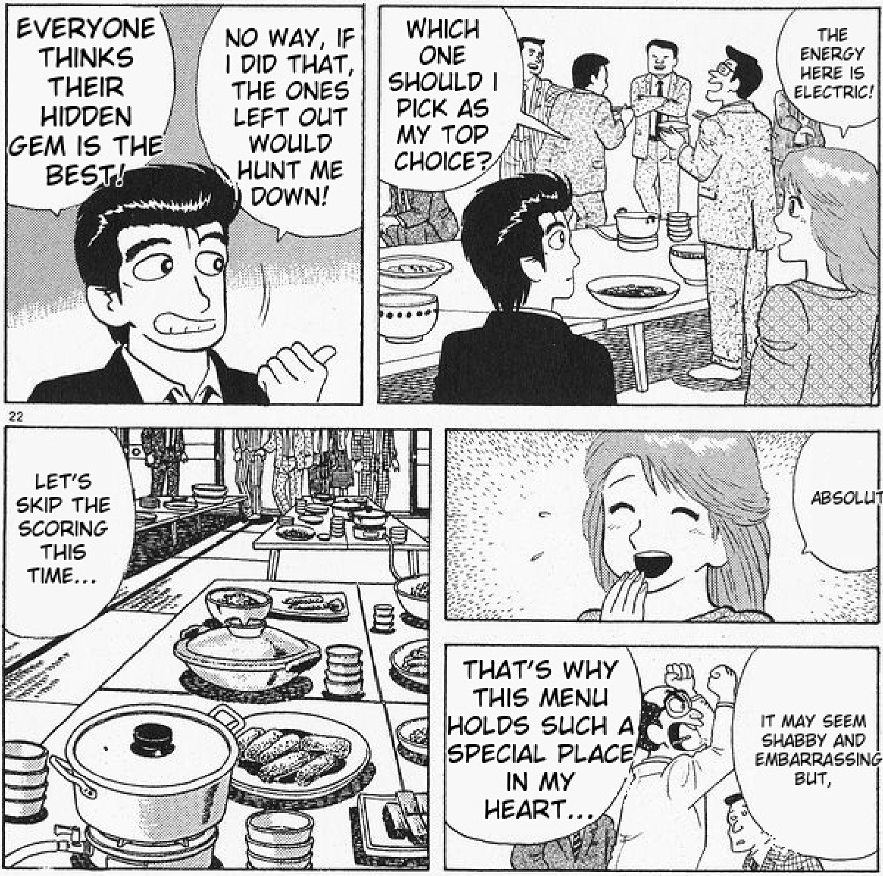

HEH HEH, THIS IS NO ORDINARY SUKIYAKI!
OH MY! MR. BLACK IS ALL ABOUT SUKIYAKI!
THERE'S BEEF FAT!
WOW, IT'S SO PLUMP AND JUICY, MELTING LIKE A DREAM ON MY TONGUE!
19
AND LET ME TELL YOU, IT DOESN'T HAVE THAT GREASY TASTE AT ALL!
BINGO! RIGHT AFTER I STARTED MY TRAINING, I WAS TREATED TO SUKIYAKI BY MY MASTER,
FIRST, YOU LAY THE BEEF FAT IN THE POT TO RELEASE ITS OILS, THEN YOU SEAR THE MEAT, AND THAT LEFTOVER FAT SOAKS UP ALL THE SUKIYAKI FLAVOR LIKE THIS,
ONCE I TASTED THAT DELIGHTFUL GOOEYNESS, I JUST COULDN'T STOP INDULGING!
FROM NOW ON, I'LL ALWAYS ADD FATTY BITS TO MY SUKIYAKI!

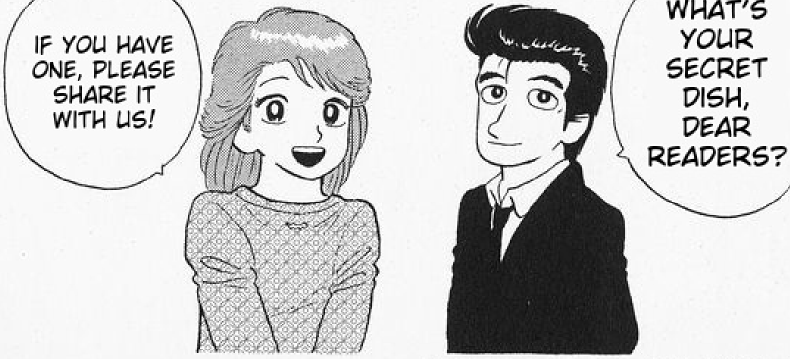

カシャ
MY BROTHER ONCE TRIED TO POUR RAW EGG OVER RICE BUT ACCIDENTALLY GRABBED THE HOT SAUCE INSTEAD OF THE SOY SAUCE...
I DIDN'T WANT TO WASTE IT, SO I COOKED IT UP, AND IT TURNED OUT ABSOLUTELY DELICIOUS!
OH MY! THIS HAS A SURPRISINGLY MODERN FLAVOR!
HOW INTRIGUING! IT'S A WESTERN-STYLE ROLLED OMELET!
20
WHAT DID YAMAOKA BRING?
HERE YOU GO.
MISO SIMMERED MACKEREL?!

*TL NOTE: THE SAUCE THAT KURITA'S BROTHER GRABBED INSTEAD OF THE SOY SAUCE WAS NOT SPECIFIED IN THE MACHINE TRANSLATION. I GUESSED IT WAS HOT SAUCE BASED ON CONTEXT CLUES, BUT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE...

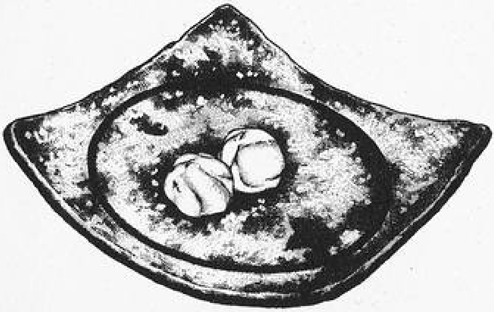
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 15!


BUT THIS IS THE REAL DEAL, ISN'T IT?
THE STAR OF THE SHOW ISN'T THE MACKEREL; IT'S THE UMEBOSHI LOUNGING NEXT TO IT.
WHEN MAKING SIMMERED MACKEREL, I TOSS IN UMEBOSHI TO ELIMINATE ANY FISHY SMELL,
THAT UMEBOSHI JUST SOAKS UP ALL THE UMAMI FROM THE MACKEREL!
THIS IS A WINNER! I COULD EAT THIS WITH RICE ALL DAY...
IS THERE ANYTHING SWEET AROUND?
OH MY! SUCH A RICH, LUSCIOUS TASTE!
THE TANGY AND SALTY NOTES OF THE UMEBOSHI ARE PERFECTLY BALANCED, CREATING A RICH AND DELICIOUS FLAVOR!
ALRIGHT, HOW ABOUT SOME GRILLED DAIFUKU FOR DESSERT!
WHEN YOU GRILL THE COLD, HARDENED DAIFUKU, IT BECOMES BEAUTIFULLY TOASTY AND AROMATIC!
WOW, IT LOOKS ABSOLUTELY SCRUMPTIOUS!
MAY I HAVE ONE, PLEASE?


THE ENERGY HERE IS ELECTRIC!
WHICH ONE SHOULD I PICK AS MY TOP CHOICE?
NO WAY, IF I DID THAT, THE ONES LEFT OUT WOULD HUNT ME DOWN!
EVERYONE THINKS THEIR HIDDEN GEM IS THE BEST!
ABSOLUTELY.
IT MAY SEEM SHABBY AND EMBARRASSING, BUT,
THAT'S WHY THIS MENU HOLDS SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART...
LET'S SKIP THE SCORING THIS TIME...


WHAT'S YOUR SECRET DISH, DEAR READERS?
IF YOU HAVE ONE, PLEASE SHARE IT WITH US!

'OISHINBO' VOLUME 15 -
THE END -



美味（おい）しんぼ15　—究極VS至高—

ビッグ コミックス

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